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Musical tribute to Our Lady of Caysasay ends run on high note

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BSP also disqualifies Roberto Romulo from Equitable PCIB board

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National Artist for dance Leonor Orosa-Goquingco; 87

■ Science / B4
DOH expert says chicken, ducks safe to eat

■ News / A2
Bishops, traders go for Truth Commission

SWS phone survey: 62% GMA resign; 85% impeach

UP TO 62 percent of Metro Manila residents believe President Macapagal-Arroyo should resign, with about 85 percent saying that, otherwise, she should be impeached, a new survey shows.

Carried out by the prestigious Social Weather Stations, the poll also shows that a clear majority of the residents see Ms Arroyo's

SWS/ A18

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Opposition rap sheet lists 100 offenses by Gloria

By Michael Lim Ubac, TJ Burgonio and Philip Tubeza

ONE HUNDRED separate offenses are being documented to support the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo, House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said yesterday.

OPPOSITION/ A17

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Saturday, July 16, 2005 ★★ 64 pages / 8 sections / Vol. 19 / No. 220 P18
website: www.inq7.net

'Tape ploy to save GMA'

GMA reaping benefits of AFP 'revolving door'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Dona Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is now reaping the benefits of her much-criticized "revolving-door policy" in Armed Forces appointments as the military has remained loyal to her despite snowballing calls for her resignation.

With her choice of Lt. Gen. Generoso Senga as the next AFP chief of staff starting on Aug. 15, the President has to date appointed a total of eight generals to head the 110,000-strong military organization in just four years in office, more than any President in the period that followed the 1986 Edsa people power revolution.

Ms Arroyo has promoted a succession of AFP chiefs, from Angelo Reyes, Diomedio Villanueva, Roy Cimatu, Dionisio Santiago, Benjamin Defensor, Narciso Abaya to the incumbent Efren Abu.

Former President Corazon Aquino had four military chiefs in six years; former President Fidel V. Ramos had three in six years, and deposed President Joseph Estrada had two in three years.

Malacañang has followed the same revolving-door policy in the Philippine National Police where four police chiefs—Leandro Mendoza, Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., Edgar Aglipay and Arturo Lomibao—have been named in just four years of Ms Arroyo's tenure. By contrast, Aquino had two police chiefs in six years, Ramos had three in six years, and Estrada had two in three years.

Ms Arroyo has come under fire for appointing generals who were nearing retirement age and habitually extending their stay for a few more months.

Critics have said that this has contributed to the instability in the AFP as a chief of staff would need to stay in office for at least two years to be able to carry out meaningful reforms in the organization.

GMA/ A6

SAGISAG NG PANGULO NG PILIPINAS

UNEASY rests the crown on the head of state these days but President Arroyo is resolutely determined to remain in the seat of power, which is one reading of her body language on Friday as she meets the officers of the Global Alliance of OFWs.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Erap says Chavit used to take heat off 'Hello Garci' scandal

By Norman Bordadora, Juliet Labog-Javellana and Michael Lim Ubac

A WRONG script intended to take the heat off President Macapagal-Arroyo and save her government from collapse.

This was what deposed President Joseph Estrada declared yesterday in reaction to the so-called "X-tape" containing alleged conversations between him and former Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Joselin Nazareno dealing with an alleged plot to remove President Arroyo from power.

"The script is wrong," Estrada said as he challenged the government to allow the public to hear the recordings.

"I want the public to know what's [on] the tape so they'll know of the crazy things being done by the government."

Estrada said that Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, his former drinking buddy, mahjong mate and fellow poker player who made public the tape labeled "X", was being used to divert public attention from the "Hello Garci" recordings, which have helped plunge the Arroyo administration into a deep crisis.

The "Hello Garci" recordings are alleged to be wiretapped conversations between Ms Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano dealing with a supposed conspiracy to rig the results of the 2004 elections.

"I'm not the President. I have no power ... And General Nazareno is not an election official," Estrada said, drawing a dis-

TAPE/ A18

More Cabinet men to quit, says Hyatt 10

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Leila B. Salaverria and Christine Avendaño

THE RECALCITRANT group of 10 resigned Cabinet officials yesterday cranked up their campaign against their ex-boss, claiming that there are former colleagues still in the Cabinet who agree with them but have yet to come to the same decision as they did to demand the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The group, now famously known as the "Hyatt 10" for the name of the hotel where they staged their walkout from the Palace, yesterday called on their former colleagues to join them and renewed their demand for the President to step down and give way to the constitutional successor, Vice President Noli de Castro.

"There are people who are still in government that also believe in this line but had not come to a decision that it was hopeless. There are irrevocable resignations as far as we know. They have already been submitted, as far as we know, but they are not immediate," former Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita "Ging" Deles claimed at a Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines forum.

Deles declined to reveal who of these former colleagues would follow them into the resign-Arroyo camp, but would only say that they were in line agency functions.

Deles and Corazon Soliman, the resigned social welfare secretary, denied they ever had a close personal relationship with the President or that they had a number of "girlie sessions" with Ms

MORE/ A6

SC chides oil dealers in VAT hearing

By Armand N. Nocum

SUPREME Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. has chided petroleum dealers for claiming they stand to lose more from the implementation of the expanded value-added tax, noting that they quickly passed on the 10 percent sales tax to consumers when it took effect at midnight of June 30.

Davide, who presided over the oral arguments in the hearing on the VAT at the Supreme Court on Thursday, said this move would clearly show that the petroleum dealers would not be greatly hurt by the implementation of the new VAT Law, the collection of which the high court temporarily stopped on July 1.

"Certainly, the increase gave profit to your clients," Davide told a lawyer of the petroleum dealers association.

Davide was among the two justices who opposed the issuance of a temporary restraining order against the VAT, which was approved by 13 justices of the Supreme Court.

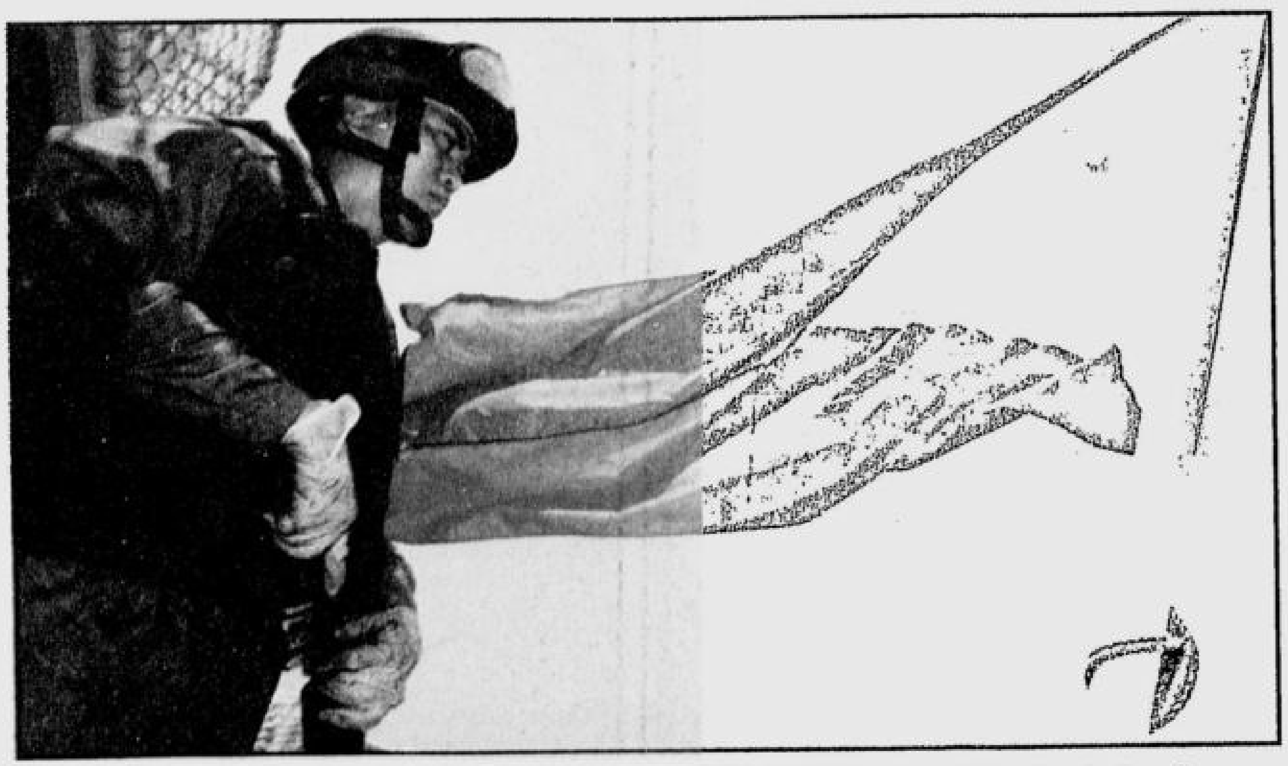
On Thursday, the high court kept its freeze on the tax and gave all parties until July 24 to submit their final arguments before it issues its ruling.

Davide said the court would issue a ruling whether or not the government and its challengers—petroleum dealers and opposition parties—submitted a summary of their arguments within 10 days.

But lawyer Carlos Baniqued, counsel of the oil dealers, said passing on the tax rate to consumers was needed to "cover [the] tax differential, but it does not necessarily mean it increased their profit margin."

However, Davide pressed on, saying: "If the TRO has not been issued, your clients (petroleum dealers) would have gained profit because you passed it on to the consumers. You believe there is no pass-on provision, so there is no legal impediment

SC CHIDES/ A6



THAT OTHER WAR. Whatever happened to the Arroyo administration's war on terror? It's still in the front lines. This Coast Guard member guards the shores of Manila Bay before an anti-terrorism exercise on Friday. The exercise is the culmination of training conducted by the Japan Coast Guard.

REM ZAMORA

Farmers group storms Agri; dozens hurt

By DJ Yap and Blanche Rivera

HUNDREDS of militant farmers stormed the Department of Agriculture compound in Quezon City yesterday, smashing windows, attacking guards and leaving a dozen people hurt.

After climbing the gates and breaking a glass door, they occupied four floors of the offices on Elliptical Road, chanting slogans against President Macapagal-Arroyo and incoming Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban yesterday, who took over yesterday afternoon.

The protesters, who belonged to various rural groups, forcibly entered the compound at 10:45 a.m., and clashed with six security guards, who could not stop the protesters—numbering around 500—from

FARMERS/ A6

Cool it, GMA defenders told

By Armand N. Nocum

COOL it.

This was Malacañang's advice to three of its vocal defenders: Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, Presidential Management Staff chief Rigoberto Tiglao and Environment Secretary Michael Defensor.

Yesterday, Gonzalez admitted that Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita had advised him, Tiglao and Defensor

COOL/ A17

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening. Moderate to occasionally strong winds blowing from the northeast will prevail over Northern and Eastern Luzon.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ERIKA A. SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/07/16/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Bishops, traders go for Truth Commission

Pro-Gloria lawmakers back proposal

By Christian V. Esguerra and Philip C. Tubeza

TO FINALLY put an end to the political crisis plaguing the country, the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference and administration lawmakers have proposed the creation of a "Truth Commission" that will look into allegations that President Macapagal-Arroyo cheated in the 2004 elections.

The BBC co-chaired by Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, the newly-elected president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, yesterday called on Ms Arroyo to form the commission on or before her State of the Nation Address on July 25.

In a two-page statement titled "The Truth Shall Set You Free," the BBC said the commission would primarily look into widespread allegations that the President "took advantage of her office" to manipulate the outcome of the 2004 elections.

BBC co-chair Ricardo Pascua said that if the President ignores the proposal, then Congress should create the body.

Administration lawmakers are amenable to the proposal.

Lakas-CMD Representatives Antonio Cuenco (Cebu City), Salacnib Baterina (Ilocos Sur) and Roquito Ablan (Ilocos Norte) said they will file a bill in Congress seeking the creation of the commission to recount the election returns in the May 2004 presidential race.

Pascua suggested that former Commission on Elections chair Christian Monsod head the commission to be composed of six members.

Proposed members of the Truth Commission include four INQUIRER columnists: retired Justice Isagani Cruz, constitution expert Fr. Joaquin Bernas, former ambassador and Air Force and Customs Chief Ramon Farolan, and University of the Philippines professor Randy David. Also in the list are lawyer and historian Michael Mastura, and human rights lawyer Romeo Capulong, legal adviser of the National Democratic Front.

Pascua said he suggested the inclusion of these people in the commission due to their "integrity and competence."

According to the BBC, the Truth Commission will investigate allegations of a "systemic fraud" purportedly committed by Comelec officials in last year's elections.

BBC Executive Committee member Vicente Paterno, at right, gestures as BBC co-chair Ricardo Pascua, at left, BBC Honorary co-chair Vicente Jayme, and BBC Executive Committee member Jose Concepcion listen during the press conference Friday at the Manila Polo Club, Forbes Park, Makati City. JESS YUSON

The commission would also "recommend actions to prevent such fraud (from) being committed in the future, including vigorous prosecution of parties guilty of the fraud," BBC said.

The commission would also clear people implicated in the alleged fraud if they are found to be innocent.

The commission's last task was to identify the people and their motive behind the wiretapping of the President's phone conversations with an election official.

To do all these, the BBC said the body "should be given full access to data in possession of any and all government agencies involved in supervising, monitoring, tallying and preparing the Statements of Votes and the Certificates of Canvass of the last election."

The BBC said the commission should be empowered by law "to compel the delivery of information and the appearance of witnesses from both government and the private sector to its proceedings in order for it to effectively execute its mandate to get at the truth."

In Congress, Cuenco said the Truth Commission will not overlap with the Gloriagate tape inquiry and the forthcoming impeachment proceeding against the President since the commission's role would be "to expedite the determination of whether or not the President cheated during the last elections."

To do this, the lawmakers proposed the counting of election returns for the presidential candidates via the source documents of the Certificates of Canvass tabulated by the National Board of Canvassers.

"A physical counting of the election returns may be over in two months whereas a recount of the ballots will take years. It's the fastest way to determine the truth," Cuenco said.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero, however, questioned the constitutionality of the proposal.

"That is outside the Constitution. Where can you find that in the Constitution? What is its legal basis and binding effect?" he said.

"And what good will it do? If it is proven that Fernando Poe Jr. won in the last elections, what will happen? Can they bind President Arroyo to resign?" he asked.

The bill's proponents were supposed to announce its filing yesterday in a press conference but cancelled the event.

They said they decided to defer the formal filing of the bill to give them more time to consult their colleagues in the majority and "ensure the smooth sailing of the measure" through the House.

"We recognize the importance of consulting our colleagues in the majority who, like us, want a fair and just resolution of the poll fraud charges against the President arising from the tape issue," Cuenco said.

He said that with more solons endorsing the proposal, they expect an expeditious approval of the bill.

Cuenco said the proposal to create a truth commission was not new since it had long been advocated by civil society and religious groups.

He said the CBCP has also endorsed the creation of a truth commission.

Noli believes GMA will hurdle problems

By Cynthia D. Balana

DE CASTRO: Trust your leaders REUTERS/ERIK DE CASTRO

VICE President Noli de Castro yesterday refused to be affected by the growing clamor for President Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation, saying he was confident the President would survive the political problems.

Speaking at the 3rd Commencement Exercises of the Maritime Academy of Asia and the Pacific (MAAP) in MAAP-Kamaya Point, Mariveles, Bataan, De Castro again appealed to the public to give their leaders a chance to peacefully address the issues dividing the nation.

He told the 141 graduates and officials of the academy, led by Capt. Gregorio Oca, that adherence to the Constitution was key to the nation's survival.

De Castro said Filipinos must trust one another, make sacrifices, and work for the country's unity.

"*Mga kababayan, ang kailangan natin ngayon ay mga Pilipinong handang magtiwala muli sa mga namumuno sa ating mga institusyon, sa kinabukasan at sa ating mga sarili. Kailangan natin ng mga Pilipinong handang magsakripisyo para sa kapakanan ng iba. Kailangang mabuo muli ang sambayanan upang sama-sama nating harapin ang mga darating na pagsubok* (My countrymen, what we need today are Filipinos who can trust their leaders to work for the good of the country and its people. What we need are Filipinos who are willing to sacrifice for the welfare of others. We have to be united as a country so we can face the coming trials)," he said.

De Castro said he would continue to work hard as vice president, despite having resigned as housing czar.

"*Ako po ay pumasok sa gobyerno dahil gusto kong magserbisyo. Sana naman ay hindi maging sagabal ang pulitika sa hangarin kong maglingkod* (I joined the government because I want to serve. I hope politics will not get in the way of my serving the public)," he stressed.

The Vice President urged the new graduates to trust their leaders and help them address urgent concerns such as job security, sufficient pay, safety at work, and the promotion of the international seafarers' bill of rights.

He said he would make sure that these matters were addressed by the concerned agencies.

He expressed confidence that a comprehensive program that will respond to the needs of the local seafarers would be crafted by the government.

At the same time, De Castro lauded the school officials behind the academy's success in bringing to fore world-class training in seafaring.

He congratulated MAAP for receiving a citation from a European Union mission in 2000 which tagged the school as "one of the best equipped schools in the world."

He said such a citation was a "testament to the capability to lead the officials and management of the academy."

Orosa-Goquingco, National Artist, dance pioneer, dies; 87

By Lito B. Zulueta

NATIONAL Artist for Dance Leonor Orosa-Goquingco, whose life's work involved retrieving and documenting Philippine folk dance forms and giving them a modern idiom with her engaging choreography, died yesterday afternoon after a massive stroke the day before. She would have been 88 on July 24.

Cecil Guidote Alvarez, presidential assistant on the arts and National Commission for Culture and the Arts executive director, said Guquinco had been in the intensive care unit of the Capitol Medical Center in Quezon City since Thursday evening after the attack. She died yesterday at around 2 p.m.

"She was really a pioneer of a very dramatic adaptation of folk dances and giving them a modern look," Alvarez said. "She has left a legacy of archiving and developing native dances, providing them a synergy through Filipinescas."

Filipinescas is the dance group that Goquingco established to perform her modern choreographic adaptations and interpretations of folk dance forms. Alvarez said Orosa-Guquingco had been attending rehearsals of Filipinescas, which will hold dance concerts on Aug. 19 to 21.

"She was not afraid to tap and nurture young talents," Alvarez said.

Born in Sulu, Jolo, in 1917, Orosa-Gocuingco remembered the dances of Mindanao and later on interpreted them with a modern twist in "Vinta," "Morolandia," and "Festival in Maguindanao."

But she was a classically trained ballet dancer, with National Artist for Dance Francisca Reyes-Aquino as a mentor. She also took up graduate courses in theatercraft, drama and music at Columbia University and Teachers College in New York.

She started experimental dancing at 17 years old. In 1940, she choreographed "The Elements," the first ballet by a Filipino for a commissioned music. The next year, she choreographed the first Filipino folkloric ballet, "Trend: Return to the Native."

After the war, she organized the Philippine Ballet and choreographed the dance version of Jose Rizal's "Noli Me Tangere." She established Filipinescas in 1958.

OROSA-GOQUINGCO

Her modern interpretation of Filipino folk dances reached its apogee in "The Bird and the Planters," which wove together the various rice-planting dance forms, climaxed by the tinikling, a dance that mimics the tikling bird going from one bamboo pole to the other, symbolized by the dancer daintily but powerfully stepping in and out of bamboo poles hitting one another.

Orosa-Goquingco also did modern dance interpretations of Filipino Catholic Lenten practices, folk games and Filipino pastimes such as the "sabong" and the fiesta.

Orosa-Gocuingco was also a writer, having written a respected history of Philippine dance, "Dances of the Emerald Isles." She was likewise a playwright, having written "Her Son, Jose Rizal."

In 1976, Orosa-Gocuingco was enrolled in the pantheon of National Artists.

Her remains lie in state at the Funeraria Paz in Quezon City. State necrological services for the National Artist will be announced soon, Alvarez said.

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Abu reiterates AFP neutrality: We will remain apolitical

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CAMP AQUINO, Tarlac City—Nothing would make the military break its neutrality amid the raging political crisis, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu declared here yesterday.

"Even if 85 million Filipinos gather in Edsa, the Armed Forces of the Philippines will remain apolitical," Abu told the INQUIRER. "We will remain apolitical. That's our role. That should be the role of the AFP."

The AFP chief made the assertion after rites marking the retirement of Lt. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, commander of the military's Northern Luzon Command or Nolcom, and turnover of the command.

During the program, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. praised Abu for "rising to the challenge posed by recent political developments."

Cruz said that Abu's order to AFP personnel to stay neutral last week "clarified to everyone the role of the military under the Constitution in times of political turmoil."

He said politicians should "resolve their differences in the political arena without the intervention of the military."

"Never again will the soldier be used to advance the self-serving agenda of anyone," he said.

It was the first time that the top brass of the AFP came in full force to Nolcom.

Abu said he invited all the commanders of the three major services to the affair to show support for Nolcom and to dispel talks that the command spawned forces that plotted to overthrow the Arroyo administration.

Cruz reminded soldiers and officers that the military was duty-bound to "remain loyal to the Constitution" by ensuring that "constitutional processes are observed and the rule of law is preserved."

If the military was firm about sticking to its role, Cruz said the AFP could focus on strengthening itself, thereby gaining the respect of the people.

In Bataan, Vice President Noli de Castro said he had no intention of assuming the presidency by means other than those in the Constitution.

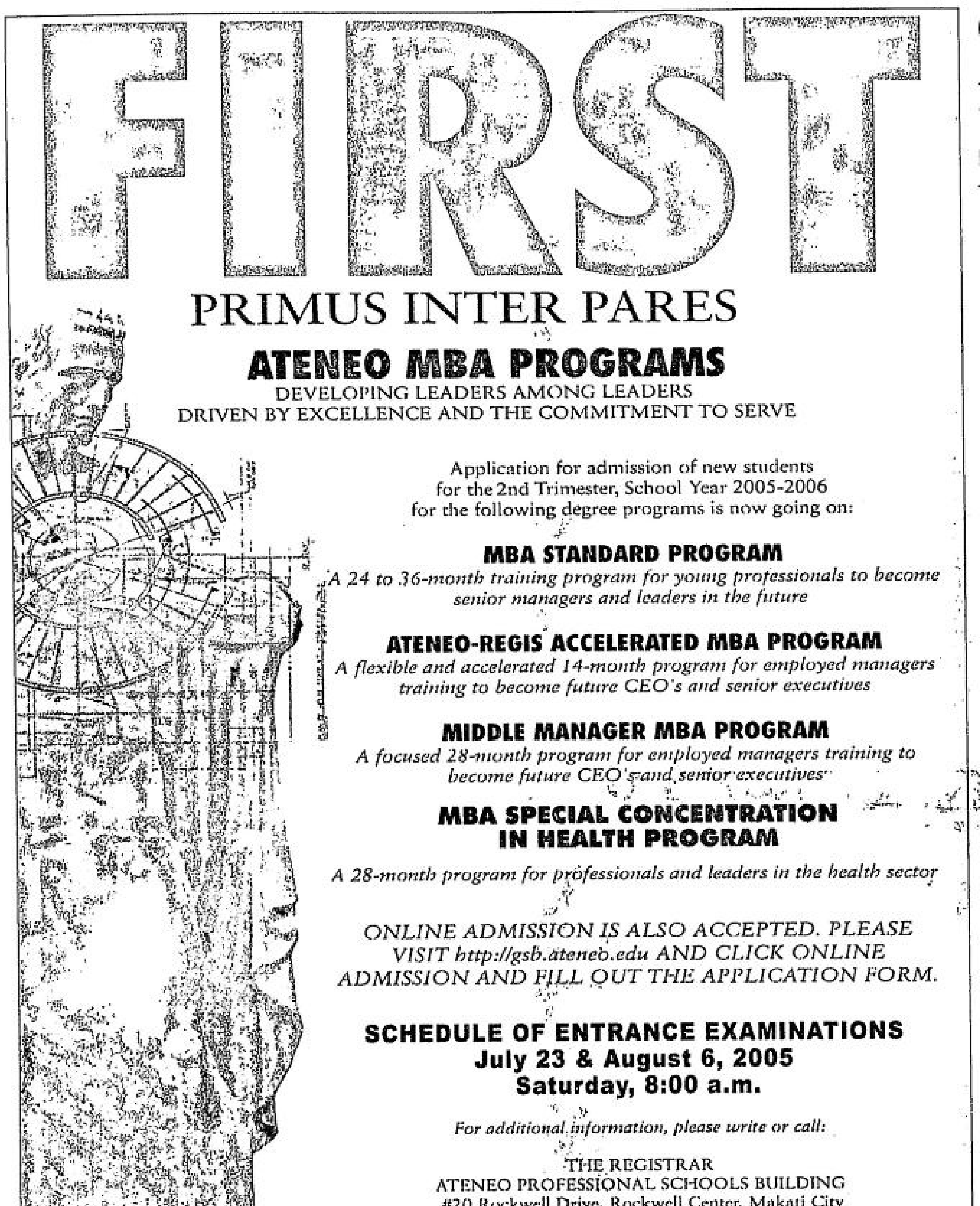
"I was elected senator and then vice president under our Constitution and I see no reason why I should violate the law," De Castro said.

The Vice President, who was guest during the graduation rites of the Maritime Academy of Asia and the Pacific (MAAP) in Mariveles town, said the political rallies calling for the resignation of Ms Arroyo had adversely affected the country's economic performance.

He said the deteriorating value of the peso and the downgrading of the country's credit rating were some of the negative effects of the protest actions. *With a report from Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

ABU: That's our role

DOMINGUEZ: I do feel there was an irregularity



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Outgoing Nolcom chief admits feeling bitter over AFP top post

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CAMP AQUINO, Tarlac City—The outgoing commander of the military's Northern Luzon Command said he was disappointed that he missed the chance to become the Armed Forces chief of staff, blaming the system of promoting officers for this.

Lt. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, who stepped down as Nolcom commander yesterday, three months before his retirement, said he was bitter about not making it as chief of staff.

"We believe in the system, we believe in the procedures. If we feel there is irregularity – and I do feel there was an irregularity – you can't take that away from me," he said.

Dominguez said he decided to reveal the flaws in the promotions process, not for his personal benefit but for the benefit of soldiers.

He said political convenience or accommodation should not be made the basis for the selection of AFP officials.

He said he voiced out this sentiment many times to Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr.

Soldiers, Dominguez said, were "silent but [they] are observing" the promotions process in the AFP.

A member of the Philippine Military Academy Matatag Class of 1971, he said officers should have fixed terms so they would have enough time to make reforms.

Classes or batches that had been overtaken in the promotions process should all be retired, Dominguez added.

The AFP chief, he said, should be selected from a system of rotation, chosen at various times from the Army, Air Force and Navy.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, July 16, 2005
15th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ex 12:37-42
Gospel: Matthew 12:14-21

The Pharisees went out and made plans to get rid of him. As Jesus was aware of the plot, he went away from that place. Many people followed him and he cured all who were sick. Then he gave them strict orders not to make him known.

In this way Isaiah's prophecy was fulfilled:

"Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, and with whom I am pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him and he will announce my judgment to the nations.

"He will not argue or shout, nor will his voice be heard in the streets. The bruised reed he will not crush, nor snuff out the smoldering wick. He will persist until justice is made victorious and in him all the nations will put their hope."

Commentary

Jesus' words and teaching infuriate the teachers of the law and they plot to kill him. But he leaves, stays on the move, continuing to preach and to heal those who come to him. The words of Isaiah the suffering servant of Yahweh are proven true about Jesus—the Spirit is upon him and he announces judgment to the nations. He is careful of the weak (the bruised reed) and those struggling to survive and live with dignity (smoldering wick) and he does not shout or argue (he speaks plainly what is just and true). Jesus' very presence is justice in the world and it will be given as gift and righteousness to all the nations. The religious leaders of his own people found him threatening and refused to listen to his Word and yet he continued to preach. There are most probably pieces of Jesus' teaching that we don't want to hear because we don't want to change—either our idea of who God is, or our behaviors and the ways we treat others—yet the Word stands to convict us.

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'We're not using the bishops,' says KME

By Christian V. Esguerra

LEADERS of the Kilusang Makabansang Ekonomiya (KME) yesterday cried foul over allegations they were just using three Catholic bishops to boost their campaign to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Emma Roxas, a member of the KME board, said there was no truth to the accusation, pointing out that Bishops Deogracias Iñiguez, Antonio Tobias and Julio Xavier Labayen "have a mind of their own."

"You can't prevail upon them. They are very intelligent people," she told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

A visibly disappointed KME chair Jaime Regalario said the group was in fact guided by the three prelates in its position on the political crisis and its campaign to reform the country's supposedly debt-dependent economic policy.

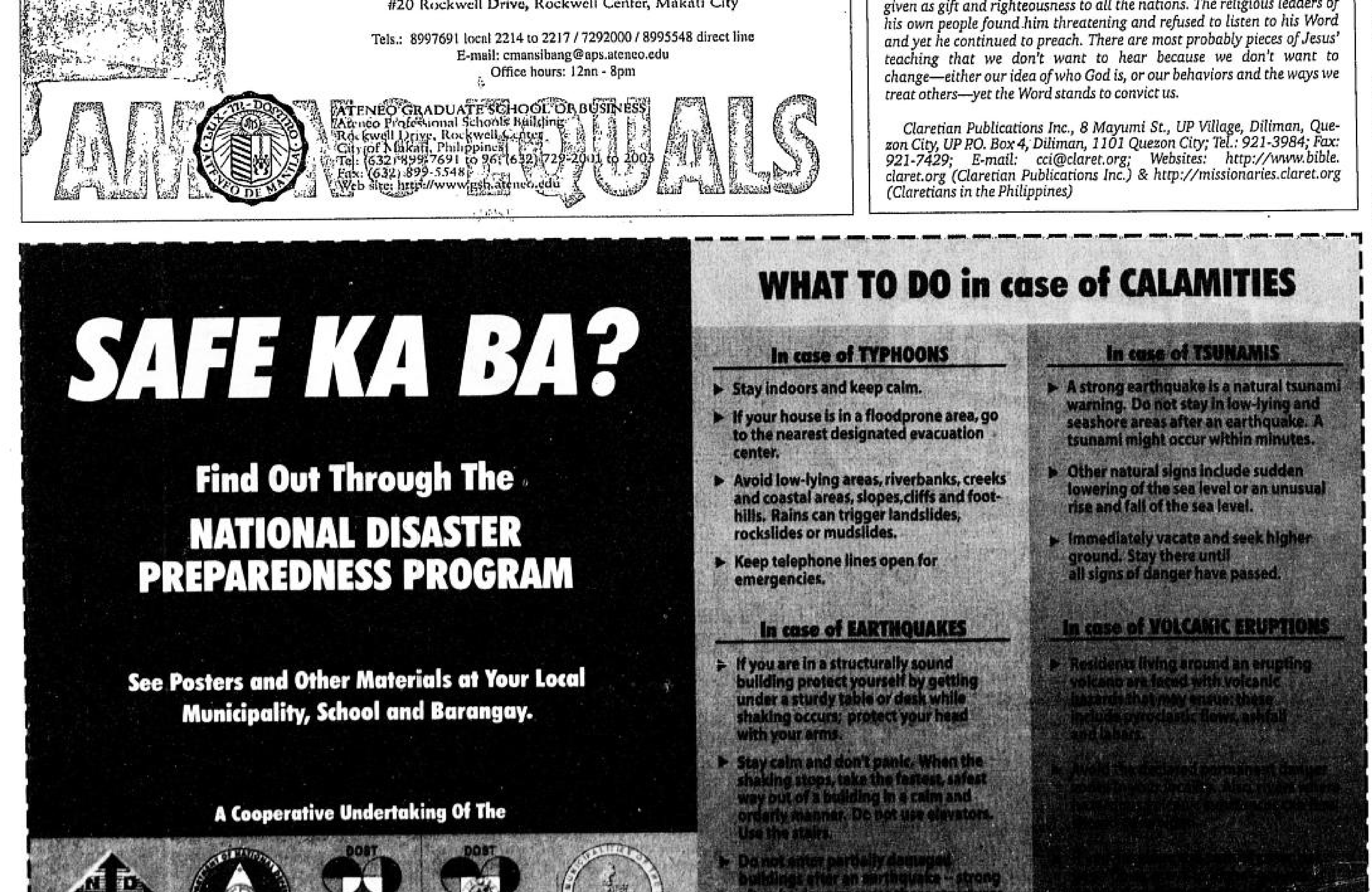
"Whenever they spoke, we listened," he said in an interview.

Regalario and his group were incensed by critics' claims that the three bishops were merely being dragged to join the clamor for the President's resignation.

He pointed out that the bishops were not merely spiritual advisers to KME but were actually active members. He said the bishops are also members of the KME board.

Iñiguez, perceived to be among the staunch critics of the President among the generally moderate clergy, on Thursday admitted that he "personally" did not favor an Arroyo resignation.

But Regalario yesterday clarified that the bishop eventually subscribed to the general KME position on the issue.



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- Keep telephone lines open for emergencies.

In case of EARTHQUAKES
- If you are in a structurally sound building protect yourself by getting under a sturdy table or desk while shaking occurs; protect your head with your arms.
- Stay calm and don't panic. When the shaking stops, take the fastest, safest way out of a building in a calm and orderly manner. Do not use elevators. Use the stairs.
- Do not enter partially damaged buildings after an earthquake – strong aftershocks may cause these structures to collapse.

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- A strong earthquake is a natural tsunami warning. Do not stay in low-lying and seashore areas after an earthquake. A tsunami might occur within minutes.
- Other natural signs include sudden lowering of the sea level or an unusual rise and fall of the sea level.
- Immediately vacate and seek higher ground. Stay there until all signs of danger have passed.

In case of VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS
- Residents living around an erupting volcano are faced with volcanic hazards that may ensue; these include pyroclastic flows, ashfall and lahars.
- Avoid the declared permanent danger [illegible]

*Partial Listing Only.

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Colonel hits Medal of Valor award to 'fake heroes'

By Dona Pazzibugan

"DALAWA singko," (two for five centavos).

That's how Army Col. Arturo Ortiz described the Medal of Valor, the military's highest medal for bravery in combat.

Ortiz, who was awarded the MOV in 1990, is protesting the awarding of the Medal of Valor to Army Lt. Col. Noel Buan and S/Sgt. Leopoldo Diokno. He called them "fake heroes."

He said the medal had been "prostituted" under the term of Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu.

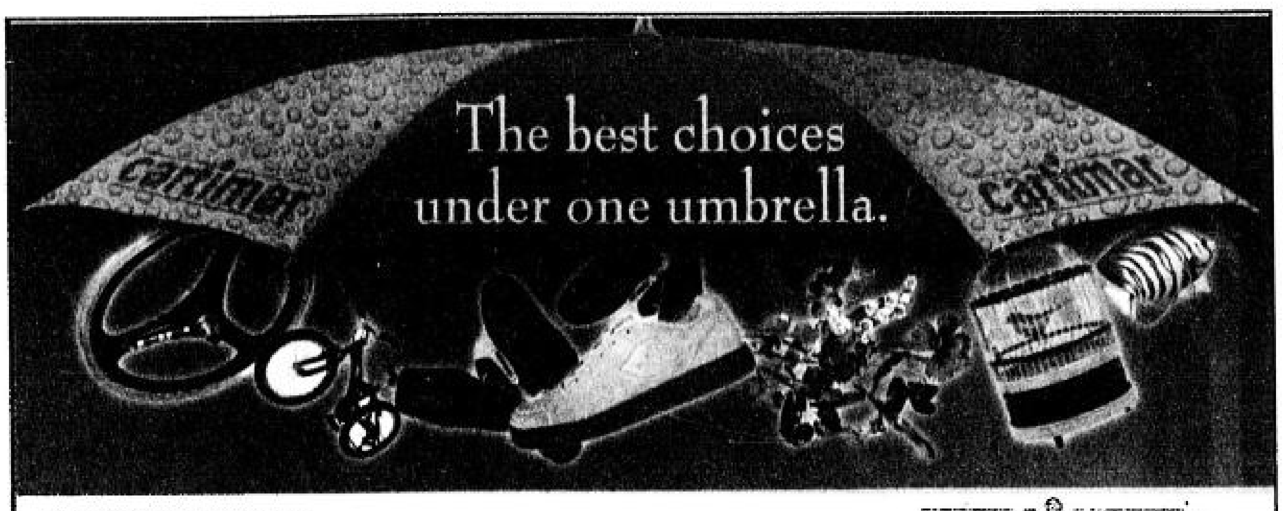
"That's why soldiers seldom wear their medals," Ortiz declared. "The medal is now only 'dalawa singko.' Now anybody can just get it, even those who haven't smelled gunpowder," Ortiz said in an interview.

Ortiz earned the MOV in 1990 after he led 60 Special Forces soldiers and militiamen against 300 communist rebels in a gun battle in Murcia, Nueva Ecija. Eighty-four rebels were killed while only one militiaman was hurt.

Ortiz and another MOV awardee, Lt. Col. Custodio Parcon resigned from the newly created MOV Board on May 5.

Buan and Diokno were awarded the MOV on Dec. 14 for killing Abu Sayyaf commander Hamsirjai Sali, his brother and four of his men in Basilan on April 8, 2004.

Ortiz said Buan "exaggerated" his report of the operation against Sali, who had a $1-million bounty on his head put up by the United States government.



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Farmers group storms Agri; dozens hurt

From page A1

entering the building.

In a statement, protesters criticized policies that were hurting Filipino farmers with cheaper imports and demanded that Ms Arroyo make good on promises of jobs, loans and land development.

"Panganiban would only carry out the President's policies that are detrimental to small farmers and fisherfolk," said Pambansang Ugnayan ng mga Nagsasariling Organisasyon sa Kanayunan (Unorka) spokesperson Evangeline Mendoza.

Weapons

About 10 protesters were hurt, but mostly from pushing and shoving, when the throng forced its way into the compound, Mendoza said. Three of them were brought to the East Avenue Medical Center for minor cuts when they went through the broken glass door, she said.

DA head of security Joey Como said he and another guard, Joselito Alayon, were hit by wooden sticks (*yantok*) on the arm and back. He said some of the protesters wielded "longneck" bottles wrapped in cloth.

Few casualties

Part of the building's glass front door was smashed, while three portraits of former agriculture secretaries displayed on the second floor were damaged, Como added.

Witnesses said the protesters broke windows, attacked guards with sticks, unfurled banners condemning Ms Arroyo and chanted "End the Gloria regime."

"We've locked our doors," said one worker inside the office of Panganiban.

A doctor at the farm department's clinic said three people were injured, including a security guard and a protester.

IS THIS ANY WAY to get back at Gloria? About 300 farmers storm the Department of Agriculture, smashing windows and attacking security guards, the farmers' beef being the now familiar chant, Gloria, resign. JOAN BONDOC

Mendoza said they vacated the building, following negotiations with DA Assistant Secretary Catherine Mae Santos who supposedly promised them that no charges would be filed if they left the building peacefully.

Mendoza neither confirmed nor denied that some of the protesters defaced the paintings and broke the glass door. "I can't speak for the other groups. There were many of us," she said.

No arrests

Police Supt. Raul Petrasanta said protesters were "peacefully dispersed," adding that an official had talked to the group, setting a formal meeting for a later date.

Police then escorted dozens of protesters from left-wing farmers' groups from the main building of the DA. There were no immediate reports of any arrests.

Other groups that joined the siege included the Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahan sa Kanayunan, Kilusan Para sa Pagbabago at Demokrasya, and Kilusang Mangingisda.

Before finally leaving the compound, the farmer-protesters staged a program for about 30 minutes outside the building.

More investments, please

Also yesterday, the President's favorite student, Arthur Yap, left the DA, urging the government to reform the highly politicized bureaucracy and to secure more investments for the agricultural sector.

His successor, Panganiban, a former agriculture undersecretary and Yap's adviser on rice production, echoed Yap's call and asked the people to avoid politics.

"We have to unite to take politics, cronyism and conspiracies out of the workplace," Panganiban said in his speech at the turnover ceremony yesterday at the Bureau of Soils and Waste Management in Quezon City.

Panganiban lamented that the department, arguably the most crucial in the government, was suffering from lack of transparency and accountability and a highly politicized and unstable organization.

This, he said, should be overhauled.

Yap proposed the creation of four key teams in the DA to help steer it back to the objectives of the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act.

These would be the development management team, financial management team, program development team and the good governance team.

Suffocating politics

Yap said minimal investments in the agriculture sector during the past 25 years were the main reason for the sector's slow growth and the high price of food in the country.

"Problems today are compounded by a crushing budget deficit, a heavily politicized bureaucracy that needs right-sizing and stunted DA initiatives brought about by the suffocating effects of a polarized political environment," Yap said in his speech.

Yap resigned to clear his family's name after the Bureau of Internal Revenue filed tax evasion charges against him for some P4 million in allegedly non-remitted real estate taxes.

"While I may leave with sorrow, I do not leave with regret because I know we had done much," Yap said.

Panganiban said he would strive to achieve Yap's projected agriculture sector growth rate of 4 percent by yearend.

With Reuters, AFP

More Cabinet men to quit, says Hyatt 10

From page A1

Arroyo.

Deles, with nine others, announced that they were quitting the government last Friday and asked for Ms Arroyo's resignation because of their "doubts and mistrust" concerning the President's ability to lead the nation and her allegedly wrong priorities.

'Classic psy-ops'

Malacañang branded as "unfair" Deles' claim that there could be more resignations and breakaways from the President's camp.

"It's classic psy-ops technique to say that you have people that you cannot trust in your Cabinet," said the head of the Presidential Management Staff, Rigoberto Tiglao.

Tiglao told reporters in a phone interview that he was confident that there would be no such resignations.

Gabriel Claudio, the presidential adviser for political affairs, said the opposite was actually happening as he noted the "surge of confidence, unity and resolve among the Cabinet members."

"They're bound by a common will to prevail over the present political challenges as well as a common faith in the presidency and the righteousness of the rule of law," Claudio said in a text message.

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor said all Cabinet members were working with "renewed and aggressive effort to deliver the programs, services and institute reforms in their respective departments."

"We will not be sidetracked nor delayed by the political mudslinging that is happening in Metro Manila," Defensor said, also by text message.

Not all are loyal

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said however that not everyone in the Executive Branch may be loyal to the President.

"There is a possibility that all are not loyal to her," he said in a phone interview.

But he said he was not necessarily referring to Cabinet members but to other members of the Arroyo administration.

But he said no attempt has been made to check on these officials.

"We don't conduct security checks or monitor individual actions. But we check out reports that we receive and verify them," he said.

Credit downgrade

In the Hyatt 10 group's latest message at the Focap yesterday, they asked the President: "Where would you like to take this nation and this economy? If you truly care for the Philippines, you will wish it well and offer the least painful and least disruptive solution. Let go of the presidency now before greater damage is done to our country and people."

The group cited the credit outlook downgrade of the country by three leading credit-risk watchers, the President's abysmal trust ratings, and the deepening divisions in society as "related to the current political impasse which if allowed to go unresolved for a prolonged period of time can bring our nation down and eventually beg for more debts just to survive."

Cesar Purisima, the resigned finance secretary, said the country cannot sustain this "stalemate" between the President and the "majority of the people seeking her resignation."

But Juan Santos, the former trade secretary, said the President chose "good" people to take the place of the 10 who resigned. He said he was confident that the reforms implemented by the core economic managers who resigned would allow the economy to sustain its momentum through the political crisis.

"We do not wish ill of the economy," Santos said.

Keeping an eye on Purisima

Speaking at a Ambassador Hotel forum yesterday, Gonzales disclosed the government had been keeping an eye on Purisima for months because of reports concerning his activities. He did not specify what these actions were, except that of Purisima's alleged meeting with Vice President Noli de Castro in Hong Kong immediately before he resigned.

Gonzales said Purisima and the others may have thought they could oust a President and take over the government that easily.

"It's a combination of certain beliefs and ambitions. They really believe they can simply oust a President. They were so certain they will take over government very shortly after resigning... They planned this for months," he said.

But he said he also believes that not all of those who resigned with Purisima were in on the conspiracy and could just have meant well or were politically naïve.

Communists

Amid the intensifying protest movements, Gonzales warned that the communists might conduct assassinations or bombings to create an environment that would bring about the President's downfall.

He said the communist insurgents had shifted their strategy to assisting in the President's ouster, noting that 83 percent of street pickets were allegedly undertaken by communist fronts.

"They have created their special operations group [which] may conduct assassinations and bombings. They're trying to intensify the need to topple the President," he said.

The assassination attempts were not only directed at the President, Gonzales said.

"When you look at the scenario of people power you need a martyr, so they are really looking for a martyr. But so far, there are no opposition volunteers to become the martyr," he said.

GMA reaping benefits of AFP 'revolving door'

From page A1

Some argue that it was precisely by keeping the military leadership insecure and unstable by this strategy that the President has been able to neutralize the military's power to change Presidents as well as ensure its prolonged loyalty to the leadership in the face of her fragile power base.

Broader support base

According to a source in Malacañang, by appointing a number of influential generals to the top military post—even if just for an average of six months each—the President was able to build a broader base of support that she can turn to, particularly during critical periods such as the present when some of her closest allies have abandoned her and demanded that she step down.

The AFP chief of staff's power to sign the promotion papers of junior officers gives those who occupy the post "residual influence" in the organization long after they have left the service.

Aside from being the crowning glory of a military career, the position of AFP chief of staff also comes with enviable perks, such as full control of contingency funds worth P200 million and generous retirement benefits.

And even when retired, Malacañang makes sure that the generals remain loyal and happy by appointing them to juicy public posts.

Of the most recently retired AFP chiefs, Reyes held the defense and now the interior portfolio, Villanueva is Philippine Postal Corp. chief, Cimatu is special envoy to the Middle East, Abaya chairs the Bases Conversion Development Authority, Mendoza is transportation and communications secretary and Ebdane the public works secretary.

Abu, who is expected to retire next month, is already being lined up for deployment as ambassador to Indonesia.

In gratitude

According to Arroyo economic adviser, Rep. Joey Salceda, the practice was "more serendipitous than deliberate" although it admittedly reflected "her accommodative world view toward the military in gratitude for their critical role to her 2001 accession."

Ms Arroyo, the then vice president was installed in power by the second Edsa people power uprising that ousted President Joseph Estrada. Reyes, the then chief of staff, tipped the balance in favor of the anti-Estrada forces when he broke away from Estrada.

"The strategy is anchored on a long tradition of seniority but it has the unintended consequence of creating space for promotions. Moreover, she was the first to substantially fund AFP modernization which registered the biggest budgetary increase in her maiden budget proposal in 2001, which was widely criticized as a war budget," Salceda said.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. said he was positive the military would not turn against the President at a time when she is facing the most serious challenge to her presidency.

Cruz, a key Palace adviser and former chief presidential legal counsel, said the Armed Forces would "never again" intervene in politics.

Never again

"Never again will the soldier be used to advance the self-serving agenda of anyone," Cruz said at the turnover ceremonies yesterday for outgoing AFP Northern Luzon Command chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Dominguez.

Cruz praised Abu for swiftly issuing a directive to all military units to remain neutral and apolitical at the most critical stage of the crisis last Friday when 10 Cabinet and sub-Cabinet members broke away and demanded that the President resign.

"The directive he issued last Friday clarified to everyone the role of the military under the Constitution in times of political turmoil," Cruz said.

"Indeed, politicians should resolve their differences in the political arena without the intervention of the military," he said.

Cruz, according to some press reports, was among the group of Cabinet members who asked the President to admit that it was her voice in the "Hello Garci" tapes and apologize to the nation.

But he did not join the seven Cabinet officials led by resigned Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima and three key economic officials who called on the President to step down, citing her "inability to govern."

Political analysts believe Ms Arroyo was able to resist the pressures to step down because of the neutral stand taken by the military and the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

The military's withdrawal of support for President Marcos and Estrada was crucial to the success of the 1986 and 2001 people power revolutions.

But the AFP has also been tarnished and lost much of the public's respect because of a succession of military coups, some of them quite bloody, staged by military adventurists during the Aquino and the Arroyo administrations.

Cruz said only by remaining loyal to the Constitution "by ensuring that constitutional processes are observed" can the military gain the public's respect.

"By holding steadfast to our constitutional mandate, we shall make a significant contribution to the forging of a stronger and more mature republic," he said.

SC chides oil dealers in VAT hearing

From page A1

for you to pass it on to the consumers."

At the expense of consumers

"Had the TRO not been issued, the dealers will profit at the expense of the consumers. That is why you will not lose at the expense of the poor consumers," he added.

When Baniqued claimed that the law provision on the input and output was "confiscatory," Davide said it could not be so because they passed it on to consumers.

"Except for Petron, Pilipinas Shell passed it on, Caltex and all of them passed it on. You are claiming that it is (the 70 percent cap) is confiscatory, oppressive. How can it apply to petroleum dealers when you passed it on to consumers? What is relevant is you are admitting that all your clients passed it on to the consumers," Davide said.

At one point during the argument, Davide asked whether Baniqued was "really sincere" in saying that it was the petroleum dealers who stand to lose from the VAT when they passed the tax to consumers.

"Are you bringing this to a class suit on behalf of consumers that you passed on the burden since day one of the effectivity of RA 9337," Davide asked.

'Unconstitutional'

Groups against the VAT law, which now covers previously exempt items such as electricity and fuel, told the court some provisions were unconstitutional, including the authority given to the President to raise the rate to 12 percent in January.

Newly appointed Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said on Thursday the government was drawing up a contingency plan—centered on improving tax administration and efficiency—in case the high court extended the freeze.

The court freeze on July 1—18 hours after the expanded tax came into force—deepened concerns that the government's ability to rein in its budget deficit would be sidelined by the political crisis over allegations of electoral fraud against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Most of Ms Arroyo's economic team quit last week and called on her to step down as some of her business and political allies deserted. She has named four new economic managers this week.

Ratings down

All three major credit rating firms—Moody's Investors Service, Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings—cut their stable outlooks on the Philippines this week to negative over concerns about Ms Arroyo's fiscal reform agenda.

Resigned Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said Ms Arroyo had "expressed the desire" to delay the VAT, days before the court freeze, to defuse public anger.

The tax package would also raise corporate income tax to 35 percent from 32 percent for three years, after which it would fall to 30 percent.

Before the freeze, the government had estimated this year's budget deficit would fall to P160 billion from the target of P180 billion or 3.4 percent of gross domestic product.

The fiscal shortfall in 2004 was P187 billion or 3.9 percent of GDP.

Under the law, the President is mandated to raise the VAT rate to 12 percent from 10 percent in January if the budget deficit is more than 1.5 percent of GDP or if VAT collections exceed 2.8 percent of GDP.

Those conditions are present at the moment and are expected to be early next year.

Markets ease

Markets were lifted on Friday by expectations the Supreme Court will lift its freeze on the VAT which is at the heart of the government's fiscal reform plans, traders said.

"That's the next most important event over the next couple of weeks," said Mike Moran, regional economist at Standard Chartered Bank in Hong Kong, regarding the expected court ruling.

"I do expect the Supreme Court to lift the suspension which will obviously be good news from the fiscal reform standpoint." Traders said based on newspaper reports about the Supreme Court hearing on Thursday, it seems the court is not inclined to accept the argument by opposition groups that the VAT law—including a provision giving the President authority to raise the rate—is unconstitutional.

Petitioners losing case

"The Supreme Court decision will be very important and from what we hear the petitioners are not doing very well," said Edward Lee Wee Kok, Singapore-based fixed income strategist at Standard Chartered Bank.

The peso opened slightly higher at 55.80 per dollar on Friday from its Thursday close of 55.88. It later weakened and was quoted at 55.86 in the afternoon as political tensions kept the market generally cautious, traders said. It closed at 55.845.

The Philippine stock index gained close to one percent to close at 1,897.08 points.

"There are some who would already speculate that the TRO on VAT would be lifted so they would be buying," said Oliver Plana, head of sales at Asiasec Equities Inc.

Philippine dollar bonds also firmed on Friday. Government bonds due in 2015 were quoted at 103.75/104.25, up 0.375 of a point from New York trading levels.

Political uncertainty

Moran said even if the court lifted the freeze on the expansion of VAT, political uncertainty will continue to dampen investor interest in the Philippines.

"I doubt we will see the level of interest that we saw in the first half of this year until they see greater visibility on the political front," Moran said.

Ms Arroyo is also facing allegations of graft by members of her family.

The opposition plans to bring an impeachment case against her in Congress, raising the chances of a prolonged political feud. *With a report from Reuters*

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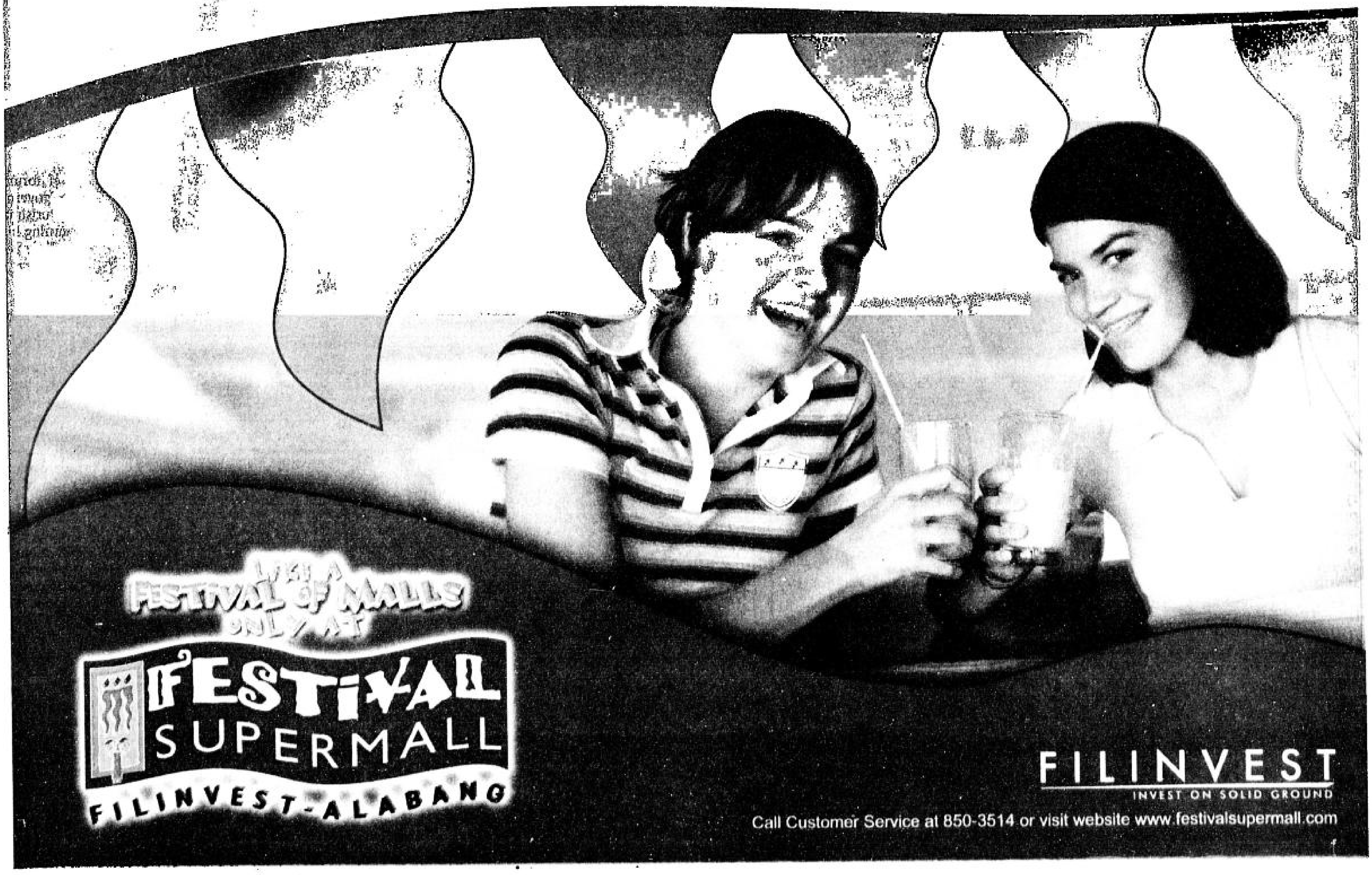
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Feria coming, brace for rains – Pagasa

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE COUNTRY, particularly northern Luzon, should brace for rains in the next 48 hours following the entry of another typhoon into the Philippines' area of responsibility, the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said yesterday.

Typhoon Feria, the sixth typhoon to enter the country this year, was spotted 1,220 km east of extreme northern Luzon. Feria has sustained winds of 150 kph and gustiness of up to 185 kph.

It is expected to hit Batanes and parts of northern Luzon early today.

"Typhoon Feria is still far to affect any part of the country for the next 12 to 24 hours," Pagasa said in its 5 p.m. weather bulletin.

Pagasa, however, already asked all ships within the typhoon area to send hourly reports to the weather bureau in Metro Manila.

Next 48 hours

Pagasa forecaster Robert Sawi said the typhoon would gain strength in the next 48 hours, with parts of Luzon experiencing rains throughout the day.

He said typhoon Feria is not expected to hit any land but will bring rain showers. Pagasa has raised only an alert status on the weather condition.

Slim chance

"There's a very slim chance that it will get to Metro Manila," Sawi said in a phone interview.

Feria was traveling westward as of last night and could veer toward Taiwan by tomorrow.

It is expected to be 640 kms east of Batanes and 400 kms northeast of Batanes by Sunday afternoon and 510 kms north of Batanes by Monday.

The Philippines is visited by 15 to 19 typhoons every year, some, like the successive typhoons in December last year, causing destructive landslides and flashfloods.

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Lawyer claims cover-up in Fil-Aussie deportation

CANBERRA, Australia — Immigration officials knew that a Philippine-born Australian woman had been wrongly deported to Manila three days after she left the country but chose to cover it up, her lawyer said yesterday.

Vivian Alvarez, who has held dual citizenship since 1986, was mistakenly identified as an illegal immigrant, possibly a sex slave, and deported on July 20, 2001, after she was seriously injured in a car accident.

In May, the 42-year-old was tracked down at a hospice outside Manila after news of her illegal deportation became public. She remains in Manila while her lawyers negotiate with the government over conditions for her return and compensation.

A government investigation released Thursday said immigration officials checked Alvarez's computer file three days after she was deported and that the document stated she was an Australian citizen.

Alvarez's lawyer, George Newhouse, said the report by former federal police commissioner Mick Palmer indicated a coverup within the department.

"We do not know why her records were investigated by officers at that time because she's already been deported and the suggestion is that somebody found out what had happened and covered it up," Newhouse told Australian Broadcasting Corp. television late Thursday.

Prime Minister John Howard denied there had been any attempt to hide immigration department mistakes.

"There's been no coverup; everything is out there," Howard told reporters Friday.

Immigration Minister Amanda Vanstone said she would wait for a final report on the incident before judging.

Alvarez's case, along with another 200 possible cases of wrongful detention by immigration authorities, is being investigated by the federal ombudsman.

"We won't know that (there was a coverup) until we get the final report," she told ABC radio.

The Palmer report said police from Queensland state, where Alvarez had lived with a young son, contacted the immigration department on the eve of her deportation and said she had been listed as a missing person.

The report said there was no evidence that immigration officials who deported Alvarez knew at the time she was an Australian citizen or that she was listed as a missing person.

But they "should have known that any thorough and objective inquiry would have established this fact." AP

Filipina jailed in Bahrain

A FILIPINA has been sentenced to six months in prison in Bahrain for allegedly misleading authorities into believing that she had been abducted, a ruse she allegedly used to avoid investigation by her employer over missing funds.

The Department of Foreign Affairs said Grace Nodalo, a cashier working for the Bahrain Financing Co., was found guilty of providing false information to police regarding her "disappearance" from June 14 to 25 this year.

A judge has ruled on July 5 based on a medical forensic report that she sustained "self-inflicted" injuries prior to her resurfacing, contrary to her claim that she was beaten up by her supposed abductors, the DFA reported yesterday.

The report maintained that the wounds on her neck and shoulders were "superficial" while those on her arms and shoulders were "caused by colliding with a hard edge or surface"– not by another person's blows, the agency said.

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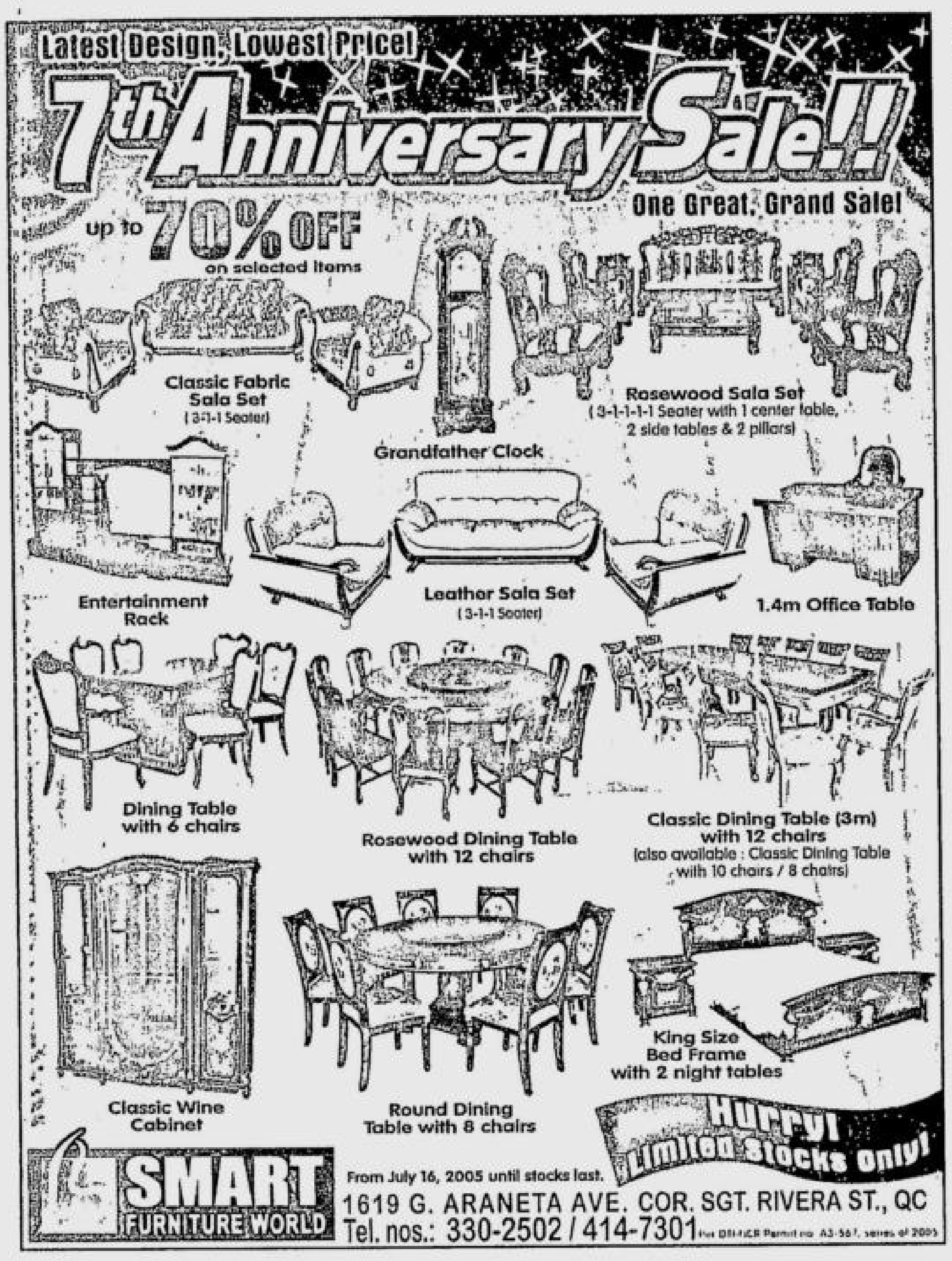
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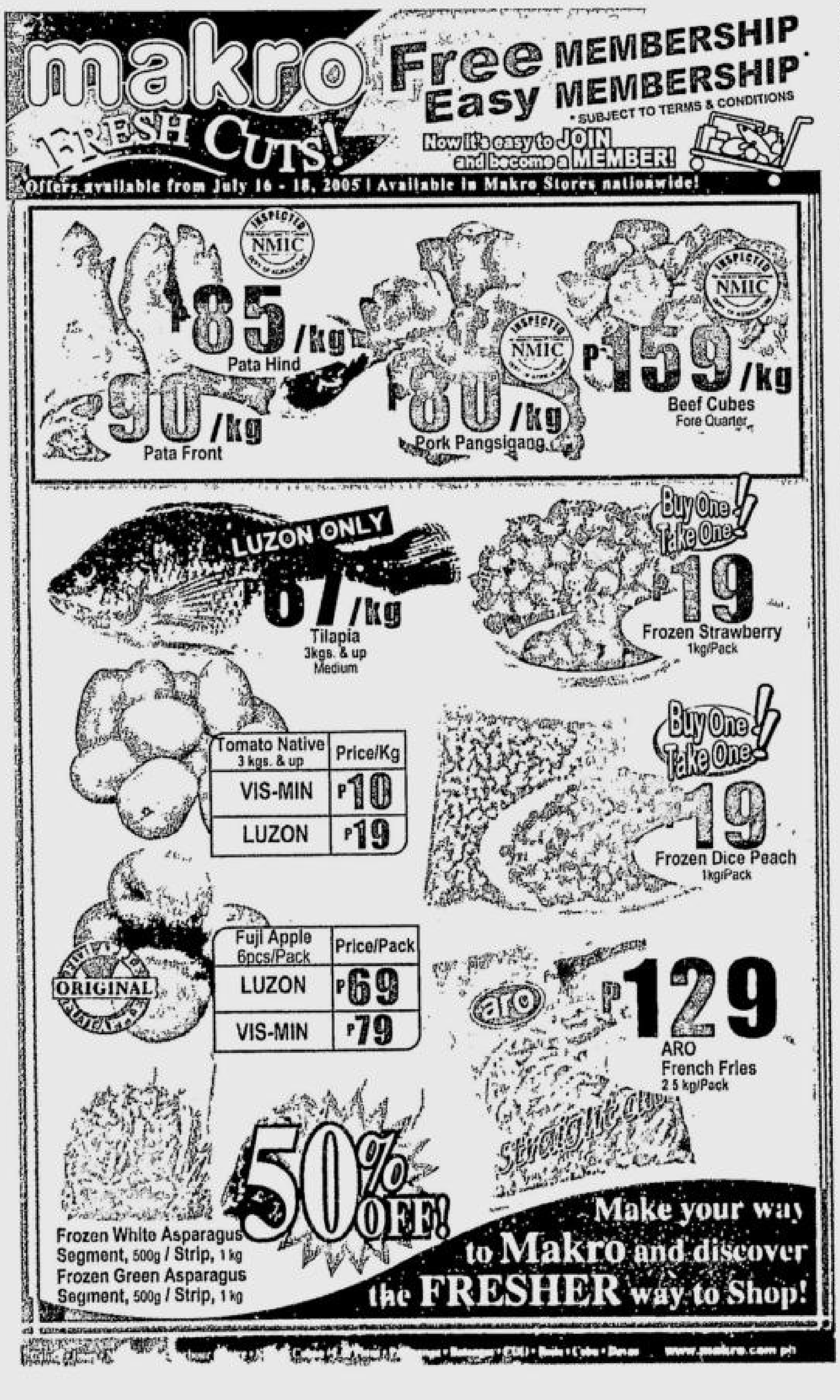
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Date/Time	Lecturer	Subject
July 30, 2005 8:00-10:00	USEC. Ernesto L. Pineda Department of Justice; Bar Reviewer	Grounds and Techniques of Disqualification of Judges and Prosecutors (2 Units) (Substantive & Procedural [Civil and Criminal] Law)
July 30, 2005 10:00-12:00	Justice Diosdado M. Peralta Senior Member, 1st Division Sandiganbayan	Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Law (R.A. 9165), The New Laws on Anti-Rape, Anti-Sexual Harassment, Illegal Possession of Firearms, Hazing, Child Abuse and Other Special Penal Law (Law Reforms in Specific Areas of Law) (2 Units)
July 30, 2005 1:00-3:00	Justice Hector L. Hofileña (ret.) Associate Justice, Court of Appeals	Rules on Notarial Practice and Updates in Legal Ethics (Legal Ethics) 2 Units
July 30, 2005 3:00-6:00	Prof. Salvador A. Poquiz Bar Reviewer	An Overview of Labor Relations Law (Substantive and Procedural [Labor] Law) 3 Units
August 6, 2005 8:00-10:00	USEC. Ernesto L. Pineda Department of Justice; Bar Reviewer	Pitfalls in Practice: Suspension and Disbarment (Legal Ethics) 2 Units
August 6, 2005 10:00-12:00	Justice Lucas P. Bersamin Associate Justice, Court of Appeals	Pre-Trial Skills: Civil and Criminal Cases (Pre-Trial and Trial Skills) 2 Units
August 6, 2005 1:00-4:00	Dean Custodio O. Parlade Former Dean, San Sebastian College of Law; International Arbitrator	International and Domestic Commercial Arbitration: (Filing of Claims, Preparation for Arbitration, Arbitral Awards and Their Enforcement) (Alternative Dispute Resolution [ADR]) 3 Units
August 6, 2005 4:00-6:00	Justice Magdangal M. de Leon Associate Justice, Court of Appeals	Oral Advocacy (Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy) 2 Units
August 13, 2005 8:00-10:00	USEC. Ernesto L. Pineda Department of Justice; Bar Reviewer	Anti-Violence Against Women and Children (R.A. 9262) (Law Reforms in Specific Areas of Law) 2 Units
August 13, 2005 10:00-12:00	Justice Lucas P. Bersamin Associate Justice, Court of Appeals	Trial Skills: Civil and Criminal Cases (Pre0Trial and Trial Skills) 2 Units
August 13, 2005 1:00-3:00	Atty. Ronaldo P. Ledesma Head, Board of Special Inquiry, BI	International Law and The Admission of Aliens (International Law and International Conventions) 2 Units
August 13, 2005 3:00-5:00	Justice Hugo E. Gutierrez (ret.) Supreme Court	Legal Writing: Pleadings and Appellate Briefs (Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy) 2 Units
August 13, 2005 5:00-7:00	Justice Ruben T. Reyes Chairman 5th Division, Court of Appeals	Emerging Ethical Issues in the Practice of Law (Legal Ethics) 2 Units
August 20, 2005 8:00-10:00	Justice Rodolfo G. Palattao (ret.) Sandiganbayan	Review of Anti-Corruption Laws and Updates in Jurisprudence (Substantive & Procedural [Criminal] Law) 2 Units
August 20, 2005 10:00-12:00	Justice Ruben T. Reyes Chairman 5th Division, Court of Appeals	Significant New Provisions and Amendments in Procedural Rules (Substantive & Procedural Law) 2 Units
August 20, 2005 1:00-3:00	Ambassador Raul I. Goco Former Solicitor General	International Law Commission (Current Developments (International Legal Processes) 2 Units
August 20, 2005 3:00-5:00	Prof. Mario E. Valderrama Commercial Arbitrator	Arbitration Law in the Philippines and Mediation (Alternative Dispute Resolution [ADR]) 2 Units

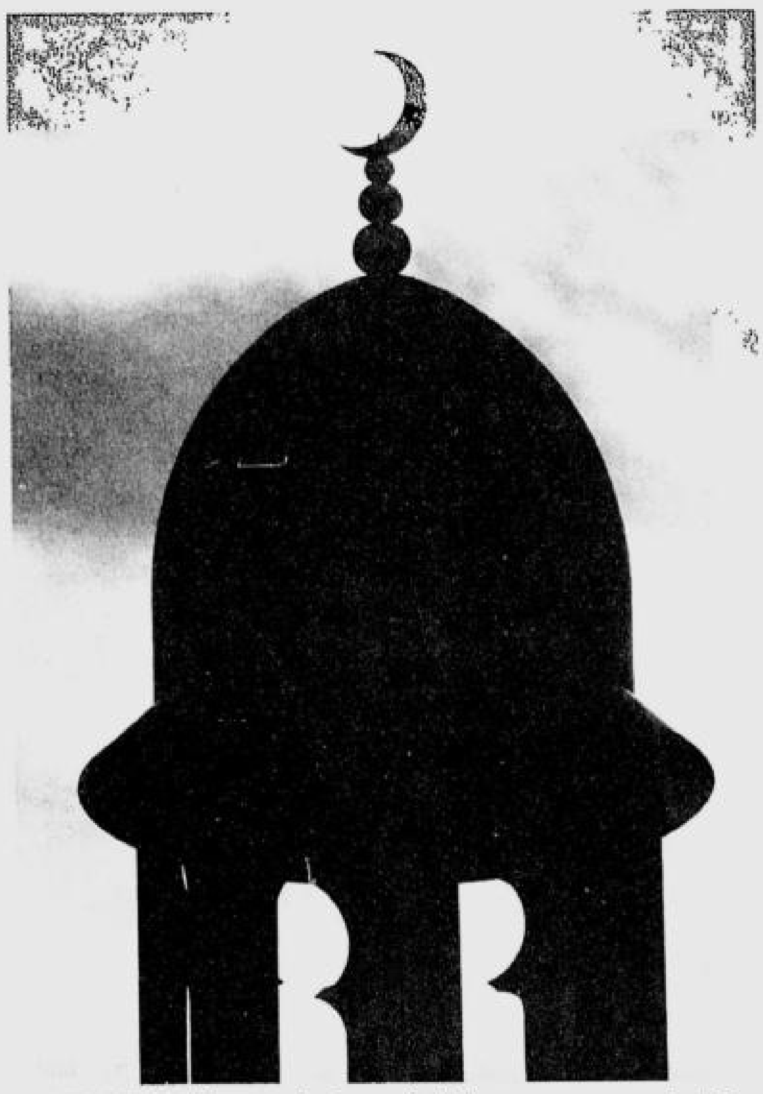
Contact Nos. 5278229; 5278045; 5284578 Contact Persons: Grace M. Ricafort and Julius Caesar Ileto
Fee: ₱8,000.00 for the entire seminars (inclusive of lunch, morning and afternoon snacks and seminar kit)

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

FBI joins search for London plotters

LONDON—British and FBI officials investigating an al-Qaida connection in the London terror attacks focused on an Egyptian-born chemist who studied in the United States and an 18-year-old Briton of Pakistani descent believed to have set off the bomb aboard a red double-decker bus.



A MINARET is silhouetted as it stands high on a mosque, against the sky in the Hyde Park area of Leeds in England, July 14. According to officials, evidence suggests that four suicide bombers, including at least three Britons of Pakistani descent, carried out last week's London bombings. AP

Security forces in camouflage searched the Beeston area of the northern city of Leeds on Thursday as police tried to crack the network thought to have given the dead suspects planning, logistical and bomb-making support.

"We don't know if there is a fifth man, or a sixth man, a seventh man, or an eighth man," London's Metropolitan Polite Commissioner Sir Ian Blair told foreign journalists.

British authorities were seeking a Pakistani Briton with possible ties to al-Qaida followers in the United States, news reports said. They said he may have organized the attacks and chosen the targets, leaving Britain the day before the July 7 bombings.

"Al-Qaida is not an organization. Al-Qaida is a way of working... but this has the hallmarks of that approach," Blair said of the attacks, which killed 54 people, including four bombers. "Al-Qaida clearly has the ability to provide training... to provide expertise... and I think that is what has occurred here."

ABC News, citing unidentified officials, reported that the attacks were connected to an al-Qaida plot planned two years ago in Lahore, Pakistan. Names on a computer that authorities seized last year from Muhammad Naeem Noor Khan, an alleged Pakistani computer expert for al-Qaida, matched a suspected cell of young Britons of Pakistani origin, most of whom lived near Luton, where the alleged suicide bombers met up on their way to London shortly before last week's blasts, according to the report.

Authorities have now discovered ties between Mohammed Sidique Khan—one of the July 7 bombers—and members of that cell who were arrested last year, ABC said.

FBI agents in Raleigh, North Carolina, joined the search for the chemist, Magdy Asi el-Nashar, a 33-year-old former North Carolina State University graduate student. The doors were locked Thursday at the building at Leeds University where he recently taught chemistry.

And in a further international development in the inquiry, Jamaica's government said it was investigating a Jamaican-born Briton as one of the bombers.

Britain paid tribute Thursday to those killed in the attacks with two minutes of silence. Office workers spilled out into the streets, construction crews put down their tools and held hard hats in their hands and London's famous black cabs pulled to the side of the road.

Queen Elizabeth II stood motionless outside Buckingham Palace and a crowd, many wiping away tears and bowing their heads, filled Trafalgar Square.

Trafalgar is about 2 1/2 km from Tavistock Square, where Hasib Hussain, 18, allegedly set off the bomb that killed 14 people aboard the bus. That blast occurred nearly an hour after three London Underground trains blew up, and investigators don't yet know what Hussain did during that hour or when he boarded the bus.

Trying to map out Hussain's movements, police appealed for information from anyone who may have seen him in or around King's Cross station, where the four suspects parted ways. They released a closed-circuit television image showing him wearing a large camping-style backpack as he strode through a train station in Luton, outside London, about 2 1/2 hours before he allegedly blew up the No. 30 bus. He had a mustache and wore jeans, a white shirt, and a dark zip-up top or jacket.

"Did you see this man at King's Cross?" Peter Clarke, head of the Metropolitan Police antiterrorist branch, asked in a televised appeal. "Was he alone or with others? Do you know the route he took from (King's Cross) station? Did you see him get on to a No. 30 bus?"

The young men traveled together from Luton to King's Cross just before the blasts, police said. *AP*

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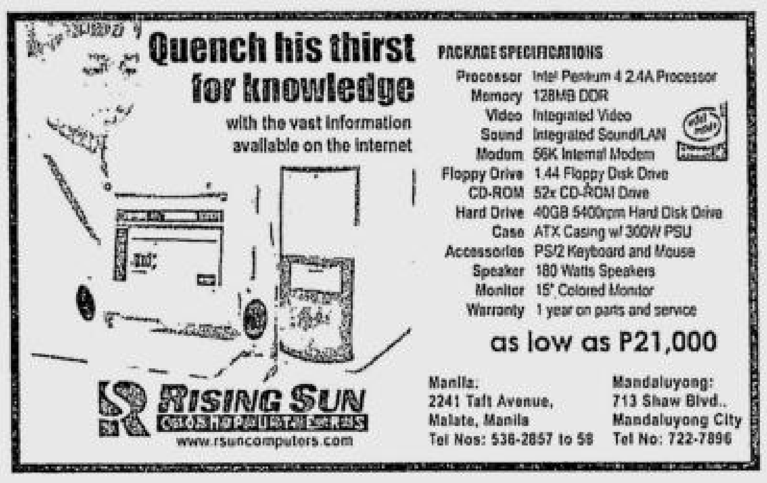

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Support for Bin Laden, suicide bombing waning among public in key Muslim states

WASHINGTON—Osama bin Laden is losing public confidence in several key Islamic countries, while growing numbers of Muslims are sharing Western concerns over extremism, a new survey found Thursday.

Support for suicide bombings and other acts of violence has also declined significantly in most Muslim-majority countries surveyed in the 17-nation report by the Washington-based Pew Institute.

In Morocco, 26 percent of people have confidence in Bin Laden, according to the survey, down from 49 percent two years ago. The latest survey was conducted in May, before last week's bombings in London.

The al-Qaida leader's rating also dipped sharply in the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation, Indonesia, where only 35 percent said they had a lot or some confidence in him, down from 58 percent two years ago.

In Jordan, Bin Laden's confidence rating rose slightly, up to 60 percent, from 55 percent two years ago, and 51 percent of Pakistanis surveyed registered confidence in him, up from 45 percent four years ago.

Support for suicide bombings is also on the wane in most Muslim-majority countries surveyed.

In Lebanon, 39 percent said the tactic was sometimes or often justified, compared with 73 percent in summer 2002. In Pakistan, the figure was 25 percent versus 33 percent. In Morocco, 13 percent said suicide bombing was justified, compared with 40 percent in March 2004.

Jordan bucked the trend again: 57 percent of those surveyed said suicide bombing was justified, compared with 43 percent three years ago.

Concern over Islamic extremism is also prevalent in several Muslim-majority countries, according to the survey: 73 percent of Moroccans believe it is a threat, along with 52 percent of Pakistanis and 47 percent of Turks.

Outside the Muslim world, concern about Islamic extremism is also running high, according to the Pew report, especially in nations which have experienced attacks blamed on Islamic radicals.

Fifty-two percent of Russians, 48 percent of people in India, 43 percent of Spaniards and 35 percent of Germans said they were very concerned about Islamic extremism in their country. *AFP*

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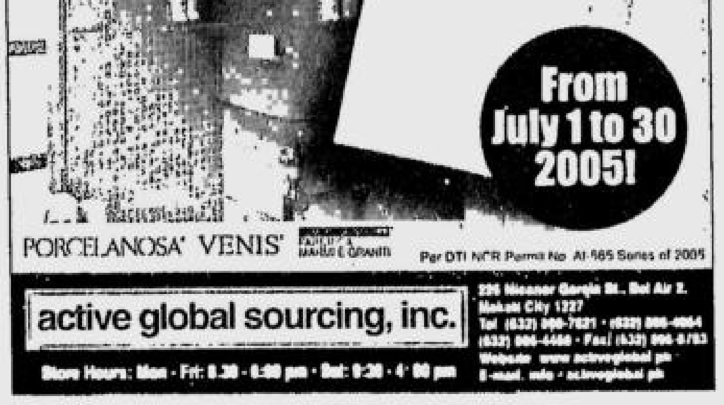

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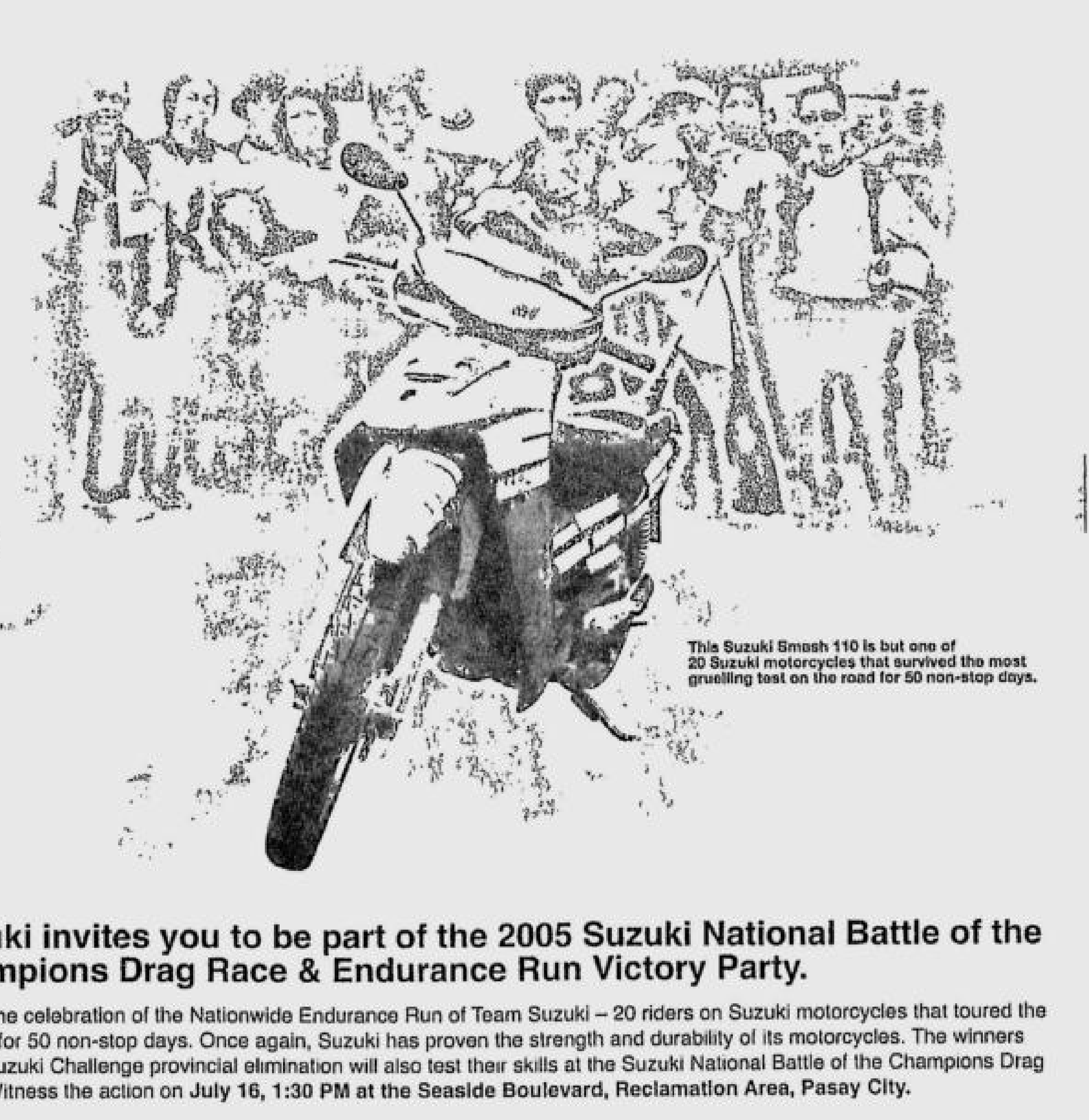

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China ready to nuke US over Taiwan, says general

BEIJING—A Chinese general has warned that China was ready to use nuclear weapons against the United States if Washington attacked his country over Taiwan, the Financial Times reported on Friday.

Zhu Chenghu, a major general in the People's Liberation Army who said he was expressing his own views and did not anticipate a conflict with Washington, nevertheless said China would have no option but to go nuclear in the event of an attack.

"If the Americans draw their missiles and position-guided ammunition onto the target zone on China's territory, I think we will have to respond with nuclear weapons," he told an official briefing for foreign journalists.

A spokesperson for China's Foreign Ministry noted that the general had said in the article he was not speaking on behalf of the government. A spokesperson later said the ministry was looking into the matter.

The Defense Ministry declined to comment, saying the Foreign Ministry had organized the event at which the general spoke.

China has claimed Taiwan as its own since their split in 1949, and vowed to bring the self-governed democracy back into the fold. In March, China's parliament passed an antisecession law authorizing the use of "non-peaceful means" to do so.

European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso urged China on Friday to resume dialogue with Taiwan before Beijing hosts the Olympics in 2008, saying it would enhance China's standing internationally.

"This will also greatly advance China's international standing and reputation as a global player with a particular responsibility for peace and security in East Asia," Barroso, on his first visit to China as commission president, said.

Beijing has refused to deal with Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian, who takes a pro-independence stance on the self-ruled island that China has vowed to attack if it formally declares statehood.

Zhu, the general, said the threat to escalate a conflict might be the only way to stop one because China did not have the capability to fight a conventional war with the United States.

"If the Americans are determined to interfere... we will be determined to respond," he said.

"We Chinese will prepare ourselves for the destruction of all of the cities east of Xian. Of course the Americans will have to be prepared that hundreds... of cities will be destroyed by the Chinese," he added.

China first tested a nuclear bomb in 1964. It has declared a policy of not using such weapons unless it has already suffered nuclear attack.

Taiwan's defense ministry declined to comment directly on Zhu's comments, saying it would monitor the issue. But spokesperson Liou Chih-chien added by telephone: "The use of nuclear weapons is something that the international community will condemn."

The newspaper observed that it was unclear what prompted the remarks, but noted that they were the most specific by a senior Chinese official in nearly a decade.

During a visit to Beijing earlier this month, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said there should be no unilateral change in the status quo over the disputed island of Taiwan.

"That means that we don't support unilateral moves toward independence by Taiwan. It also means that we are concerned about the military balance, and we'll say to China that they should do nothing militarily to provoke Taiwan," she added.

Reuters

BASTILLE DAY

Can-can dancers Ann Voltaw, left, Hollie Seidel, center and Laura Bovenkerk leap together while performing for passersby during Bastille Day festivities, July 14, in front of Les Halles restaurant in New York's Lower Manhattan. AP

Merck put profits over safety, court told in first Vioxx trial

ANGLETON, Texas—Drug company Merck & Co cared more about profits than safety, a lawyer for a Texas man's family said on Thursday in the first trial involving the risks of its painkiller Vioxx.

The case, pitting Robert Ernst's family against the New Jersey-based pharmaceutical giant, claims that the 59-year-old man died of heart problems that Merck hid from the public and the US Food and Drug Administration.

Merck, which faces thousands of lawsuits related to Vioxx, pulled the drug off the market in September when it said it became aware the drug increased the risk of heart attack and stroke.

The plaintiff's lawyer Mark Lanier told the 12-member jury in his opening statement that Ernst was an avid athlete who ran marathons, participated in triathlons and had not smoked a cigarette in 15 years.

"Is this a guy who's one pork chop away from a heart attack?

"No, he's in great shape," Lanier said.

Lanier said Merck had been a good company until 1994, when it installed new management and started focusing too heavily on profits.

"This new management took Merck and tried to turn it into an ATM machine," he said.

That shift was personified in the hiring of Raymond Gilmartin as chief executive, Lanier said. Gilmartin, who stepped down this past Spring, was a Harvard-trained businessman rather than a medical expert.

During Gilmartin's tenure, the company was cited nearly 20 times by the FDA for misleading marketing practices, including hiding safety concerns about its drugs, Lanier said.

Lanier also said Merck had launched a huge $1 billion marketing effort to promote Vioxx, and that the company targeted specific doctors—including Ernst's—to increase sales.

Vioxx is the trade name for rofecoxib, which is part of the class of drugs called NSAIDs. It was touted as a pain and inflammation reliever that did not cause ulcers or gastrointestinal bleeding, a side effect of many such medications.

The Texas state court trial in Angleton, a small town some 12 miles from the Gulf of Mexico and 30 miles south of Houston, is viewed as a bellwether by analysts.

Merck has set aside less than $1 billion for legal expenses, according to its latest financial filing. But if the Ernst family prevails, the company's liability could grow considerably, analysts said.

A lawyer for Merck said the company had never hidden any information that indicated Vioxx posed a heart attack or stroke risk, and that all its studies and data were given to the US Food and Drug Administration.

"What you will learn in this case is that Vioxx was one of the most carefully and extensively studied pain relievers in history," David Kiernan told the jury in his opening statement.

Merck has argued in court documents that the heightened health risks did not occur unless patients took the drug for longer than 18 months, far longer than Ernst had taken it.

Reuters

Wanna follow in Martha's footsteps?

NEW YORK—Martha Stewart is using some of her time under house arrest to write a guidebook for entrepreneurs who want to follow her path to business success.

The founder of the Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia Inc. merchandising and media empire is serving a five-month term at her home in Bedford, New York, after recently completing five months in a West Virginia federal prison for lying about a stock sale.

"Martha's Rules," a handbook for developing a business from scratch, will be published by Rodale Inc. of Emmaus, Pennsylvania, in October, Stewart's company said Wednesday.

The book deal follows Stewart's decision to host a version of "The Apprentice"—the NBC reality show that weeds out contestants based on tests of their business acumen.

AP

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NATIONAL LIGA

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NATIONAL LIGA ASSEMBLY HELD ON JULY 14, 2005 AT THE HERITAGE HOTEL, PASAY CITY.

3RD Liga
Assembly Resolution No.1 S. 2005

A RESOLUTION TO UPHOLD THE DULY CONSTITUTED GOVERNMENT AND TO SUPPORT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT.

WHEREAS, our government, in particular the Executive branch, is currently in a political crisis. It has been assailed left and right with serious allegations, ranging from the real to the surreal;

WHEREAS, demanded by some sectors in society as a solution, the President of the Republic of the Philippines has been asked to step down by way of tendering her resignation;

WHEREAS, ours is a democratic and a republican State with a Constitution that has been ordained and promulgated by the sovereign Filipino people, aimed to secure ourselves and our posterity the blessings of independence and democracy *under the rule of law and a regime of truth, justice, freedom, love, equality and peace,* [Preamble, Philippine Constitution]. For as so eloquently proclaimed in *Ex parte Milligan, "'The Constitution is a law for rulers and for the people equally in war and in peace and covers with the shield of its protection all classes of men at all times and under all circumstances.";*

WHEREAS, while resignation, as stated by the Constitution, is a ground to render vacant the Office of the President, it cannot be gainsaid that resignation is a personal and voluntary act. Ergo, if there is no intention to resign on the part of the President, then she should not be obliged to do so, more so under duress. Even in the face of unpopularity, the rule of law demands that the President, like any other citizen of the Republic, shall enjoy, equally, the presumption of innocence until proven otherwise.

WHEREAS, the proposed charter change, e.g., to one that is parliamentary or federal in nature has, in the same vein, been suggested as a solution for the present political dilemma. While the suggestion is well-meaning, it is perceived to be off-tangent and even premature, for it would entail the overhauling of our Constitution while what is, probably, only called-for is a tune-up of the current Presidential form.

WHEREAS, the political climate affects all Filipinos, rich and poor alike, and all of the 41,939 barangays nationwide. And since the Liga ng mga Barangay is a vehicle to articulate and crystallize issues affecting the barangay [Section 491, Local Government Code of 1991], this declaration has come to fore.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED AFTER EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION with the various chapter heads of the Liga ng mga Barangay representing the 41,939 barangays, we shall abide by the dictates of the rule of law as embodied in our Constitution, jurisprudence and the pertinent statutes.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the present political woes cast upon the Office of the President of the Republic should be addressed through constitutional means. ***In the meantime, Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo should continue to serve in her office as mandated by the constitution, and not on the basis of opinion and/or preference of a few.*** In this manner, the continuity of government programs already in-place, and the delivery of basic services in every barangay will be assured.

RESOLVED FURTHER, the President should take into consideration that the proposed shift to a parliamentary or even a federal form of government is not a seeming solution, even long-term. Any charter change should therefore, be meticulously sifted, discussed openly, clearly understood and decided only after extensive consultations with the Filipino people with whom sovereignty ultimately resides, so that at the end of the day a truly informed choice is achieved. Other options such as reverting to a two-party system should likewise be considered.

RESOLVED FINALLY, that Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, as Head of State should initiate reconciliation by calling upon the people and its leaders, pro-administration and opposition alike, as well as the various sectors in society, and together sit down on the negotiating table to discuss alternative, yet more viable solutions that would realistically address the present crisis.

DONE THIS 14 JULY 2005.

James Marty Lim

James Marty L. Lim
National President
(Marinduque)

Mario Eduardo C. Ortega
Executive Vice President
(La Union)

Abdurahman Nuño
Vice President for Mindanao
(Zamboanga City)

Jovita Tuela Ouano
Vice President for Visayas
(Mandaue City)

Natalio F. Beltran III
Director (Treasurer)
(Manila)

Jonah Pedro Pimentel
Secretary General
(Camarines Norte)

Enerito Acain, Jr.
Director (Secretary)
(Misamis Oriental)

Angel Briones
Auditor
(Iloilo)

Rufino Panagan
Director
(Baguio City)

George S. Chew
Director
(Sorsogon)

Cleopatra Largo
Director
(Zamboanga Sibugay)

ADVT.

Bird flu suspected in 3 deaths in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia—A man and his two daughters have died of suspected bird flu in Indonesia, authorities said Friday, and initial investigations showed they had no contact with poultry, raising concerns of possible human-to-human transmission.

The victims, a 38-year-old man and his two girls, age 9 and 1, would be the country's first human fatalities linked to the virus. They lived in a suburb of Jakarta and all died in the last week and a half, Health Minister Siti Fadilah Supari said.

"These are suspected bird flu cases," Supari said at a news conference attended by officials from the World Health Organization. "We have sent specimens to Hong Kong to confirm the results, which will take seven to 10 days."

All were suspected of catching the deadly H5N1 strain of the virus, she said.

Hundreds of millions of birds have died or been culled across Asia in the last two years because of the bird flu virus, which also jumped to humans, killing 51 people in Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia.

Experts say most of the deaths so far have resulted from an animal passing the virus to a human.

But WHO has long cautioned that the virus could mutate to allow easy transmission from person to person, which could cause it to spread rapidly around the world.

But Dr. Georg Petersen, a WHO representative, said that while the three Indonesian family members had no known contact with poultry, a more thorough investigation could turn up evidence to the contrary. *AP*

SULTAN'S BIRTHDAY AFP

Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah (left) greets well-wishers while Queen Saleha looks on during the sultan's birthday celebration at his palace in Bandar Seri Begawan July 15. Bolkiah, the ruler of oil-rich Brunei and one of the world's last absolute monarchs, celebrated his 59th birthday.

Israeli helicopters pound Gaza after woman's death

GAZA CITY—Israeli helicopters carried out three raids and fired missiles in the north of the Gaza Strip early Friday after the death of an Israeli woman in a rocket attack by Palestinian militants, Palestinian security forces said.

The helicopters fired three rockets at a cultural center run by Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas near Jabaliya refugee camp without claiming any victims. The target was seriously damaged as were two neighboring houses, the sources said.

Two other helicopter attacks took place at Deir el-Balah and Khan Yunes in the central Gaza Strip, where targets included offices of the Palestinian police. The raids caused limited material damage but no one was hurt, the sources said.

Other helicopters were flying over Gaza City, witnesses said.

The raids came after a young Israeli woman was killed when Palestinian militants fired makeshift rockets from the occupied Gaza Strip into southern Israel, according to military sources.

Another Israeli was also lightly wounded in the village of Netiv Haasara, where four devices exploded after being launched from the northern Gaza Strip, the sources added.

An additional four rockets exploded in the Negev region to the west of the occupied Palestinian territory, damaging cars but causing no further victims, the sources added.

The attack came as Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas denounced spiraling violence and arrived in Gaza for crisis talks with armed factions in a bid to rescue a de facto truce two days after a suicide bombing killed five Israelis.

Deeply embarrassingly for the increasingly under-fire Abbas, the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a nebulous faction loosely affiliated to his own ruling Fatah party, claimed the rocket attacks, as did the militant group Hamas.

In an apparent response to the escalation of violence, Palestinian police and security forces in the Gaza Strip were placed on a state of alert due to "tension on the ground," a Palestinian interior ministry spokesperson said.

Palestinian Interior Minister Nasr Yussef said that the security forces and police had been "ordered to prevent by force if necessary all firing of rockets and mortars" against Israeli targets.

"We will take the most energetic measures to put an end to this firing and to find a solution," he told reporters following talks with Abbas.

Shortly before the state of alert was implemented, five members of the Palestinian militant group Hamas who were preparing to fire mortars toward Israel were shot and wounded by Palestinian police, witnesses and medical sources said.

Two passersby, who were not members of Hamas, were also wounded by the shots.

During a press conference in Gaza Hamas' armed branch, the Ezzedin Al-Qassam Brigades, warned the Palestinian Authority that opening fire on people was a "yellow line which cannot be neglected by the Brigades."

The Brigades "will react to all attacks by the Zionist enemy," a spokesperson for the radical group added, speaking on condition of anonymity and accusing the Palestinian Authority of seeking "to destroy national unity."

Abbas has come under massive pressure from Israel, Washington and the European Union to arrest and prosecute those responsible for the suicide bombing outside a shopping mall in Netanya that killed five Israelis.

The deadly rocket-firing "illustrated once again that the Palestinian Authority is not respecting its engagements to dismantle terrorist networks," Israeli government spokesperson Avi Pazner told AFP. *AFP*

Iraqi forces foil triple suicide attack in Baghdad

BAGHDAD—Iraqi forces thwarted a triple suicide attack on Baghdad's Green Zone government compound on Thursday, killing two bombers before they reached a checkpoint and capturing one alive, US military spokesmen said.

Iraqi forces guarding the checkpoint spotted what they identified as a suicide bomber driving toward them during the morning rush hour, Brig. Gen. Donald Alston said. They opened fire, and the bomb went off before reaching them.

Two other bombers, strapped with explosives, then ran toward them. One was shot and killed as his vest detonated when he fell. That blast wounded the third bomber, the US military said in a later statement. As Iraqi soldiers began to treat him and four other wounded Iraqis they noticed his explosives.

"That bomber was then shot by the IPs (Iraqi police)," the statement said. After an Iraqi bomb disposal expert defused the charges, the third man was taken, paralyzed and in critical condition, to hospital, it added.

Doctors at the city's Yarmouk hospital said they had seen two bodies and five wounded, apparently including the captured bomber. He was being treated in the custody of Iraqi police, but US officers expected to interview him, Alston said.

The attack "failed in every way because of discipline and courage under fire of the Iraqi security forces," he added.

The vast Green Zone, comprising former palaces, hotels and government buildings along the bank of the Tigris River, is completely surrounded by towering concrete blast walls that often cut through entire neighborhoods. It houses both the Shiite- and Kurdish-led government and its American backers.

It frequently comes under attack by mortars, or by bombers and gunmen outside its gates. But Thursday's coordinated attack was a notably brazen attempt to penetrate its defenses.

US forces also announced the capture of a man they described as a senior lieutenant of Iraq's al-Qaida leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the second person described as a key aide to the Jordanian militant whose capture they announced this week.

They said Abu Seba, caught in Ramadi on July 9, had played a role in the kidnapping and killing of Egypt's envoy to Iraq, Ihab el-Sherif, snatched from the street on July 2.

Catching Thursday's wounded suicide bomber is also a rare intelligence opportunity since few are caught alive.

Most suicide bombers are believed to be young Sunni Arab men from outside Iraq, loyal to groups like Zarqawi's. Such groups partly overlap with the insurgency among Iraq's own Sunni Arab minority, although many Iraqi Sunnis reject Qaida's foreign influence, severe religious teachings and extreme violence. *Reuters*

CIA agent's spouse says Rove pushed Plame story

WASHINGTON—The husband of a CIA agent whose identity was exposed during the fierce debate over the Iraq war accused the White House on Thursday of being involved in a giant "cover-up" involving top aide Karl Rove.

Federal investigators are looking into who leaked the identity of covert CIA agent Valerie Plame, whose name appeared in a newspaper column by journalist Robert Novak exactly two years ago, on July 14, 2003. Rove, who orchestrated Bush's presidential campaigns, has emerged as a source for at least one other media report on the case.

"What this thing has been for the past two years has been a cover-up, a cover-up of the … web of lies that underpin the justification for going to war in Iraq," said Plame's husband, Joseph Wilson, a career foreign service officer who served in the Clinton White House.

"And to a certain extent, this cover-up is becoming unraveled. That's why you see the White House stonewalling," Wilson told NBC's "Today" show.

Wilson charged in another interview that Rove was actively promoting Novak's story about Plame in 2003, saying the White House deputy chief of staff declared Wilson's wife "fair game" in a telephone conversation with Chris Matthews, the host of NBC's political affairs program, "Hardball." "He (Matthews) called me up as soon as he got off the phone," Wilson told CNN. "He called me up and he said: 'I just got off the phone with Karl Rove. He says your wife is fair game.' I know that Karl Rove was, in fact, engaged in pushing the Novak story." Bush, whose approval ratings have fallen in recent months, has had no public words of support for his longtime adviser. He said he would withhold judgment and ordered his staff to cooperate with investigators.

White House spokesperson Scott McClellan, traveling with Bush to Indiana, declined to comment on Wilson's charges. "We'll let the investigation continue and come to a conclusion," he said.

It is a federal offense to knowingly reveal the identity of a US undercover agent, and Bush said in 2003 he would fire whoever leaked the classified information about Plame. The special prosecutor investigating the case could also be considering charges of obstruction of justice or perjury.

Wilson, who briefly served as an adviser to the campaign of Bush's 2004 presidential opponent, Sen. John Kerry, but also served in the first Bush administration, added his voice to Democrats calling for Rove to be fired. *Reuters*

Thaksin sets emergency rule over Muslim south

BANGKOK—Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra assumed emergency powers on Friday after about 60 militants launched a dramatic attack on a town in the largely Muslim far south.

The powers, assumed after two policemen were killed and 23 people wounded in Thursday night's attack on Yala, allow him to order phone taps, censor newspapers and detain suspects without charge.

The "Emergency Powers Law," which replaces localized martial law in the three southernmost provinces where more than 800 people have been killed in 19 months of violence, was approved by an emergency cabinet meeting called in response to the attack.

Southern police chief Adul Saengsingkaew told reporters that interrogations of arrested suspects suggested there were about 60 people involved in the orchestrated attacks.

Police were still checking closed circuit television in the hunt for the people who set off six bombs during a raid in which the militants caused an hour-long blackout.

In the darkness, gunmen on motorcycles fired at random and tossed Molotov cocktails into shops and houses. They also scattered metal spikes across three main roads to hinder the movement of security forces, police said.

Bombs hit a newly opened cinema complex, a hotel café, a karaoke restaurant and a convenience store almost simultaneously.

"In the past seven days there have been signs that the situation will escalate," Deputy Prime Minister Wissanu Krea-ngam told reporters after the cabinet meeting.

"The last straw that prompted us to impose this law is what happened at 7 p.m. in Yala," or 1200 GMT, he said of the decree which brings responsibility for security directly into the PM's office.

The new law allows Thaksin to stop the sales of newspapers and magazines deemed "threatening to national security or causing public anxiety," according to a draft seen by Reuters.

As the cabinet meeting ended, a bomb exploded at a Yala restaurant, wounding four people and damaging two motorcycles, police said.

Two teachers were shot dead as they drove to work in neighboring Narathiwat province, they said.

Five policemen and three "bandits" were seriously wounded in the Yala clashes, Public Health Minister Suchai Charoenrattanakul told Channel 9 television. Only six people were still in hospital on Friday morning, he said. *Reuters*

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Darkness

EDITORIAL

BECAUSE of the deafening political noise here at home, we seem to have failed to pay proper attention to what happened in London last week. In the worst attacks the city has suffered since World War II, three subway trains and one bus were bombed mere seconds apart. The July 7 explosions were so powerful that all the 46 fatalities remain unidentified. A massive investigation is being conducted, although British authorities have identified four suicide bombers and the mastermind. All are believed to have connections with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida international terrorist network.

Marie Fatayi-Williams, the mother of one of those who are missing after the attacks, delivered an impassioned condemnation of the bombings:

"They (the perpetrators) are not warriors. Which cause has been served? Certainly not the cause of God, not the cause of Allah, because God Almighty only gives life and is full of mercy. Anyone who has been misled, or is being misled, to believe that by killing innocent people he or she is serving God should think again because it's not true. Terrorism is not the way, terrorism is not the way. It doesn't beget peace. We can't deliver peace by terrorism. Never can we deliver peace by killing people. Throughout history, those people who have changed the world have done so without violence, they have (won) people to their cause through peaceful protest. Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King, Mahatma Gandhi—their discipline, their self-sacrifice, their conviction made people turn towards them, to follow them. What inspiration can senseless slaughter provide? Death and destruction of young people in their prime as well as old and helpless can never be the foundations for building society."

The world can only echo her denunciation and amplify her condemnation of terrorism. As with New York City and Madrid, the world can only mourn in solidarity with the victims of the London bombings. But like those cities, our cities and we Filipinos must also wonder if, and when, the darkness we have experienced, might descend upon us, to be experienced yet again.

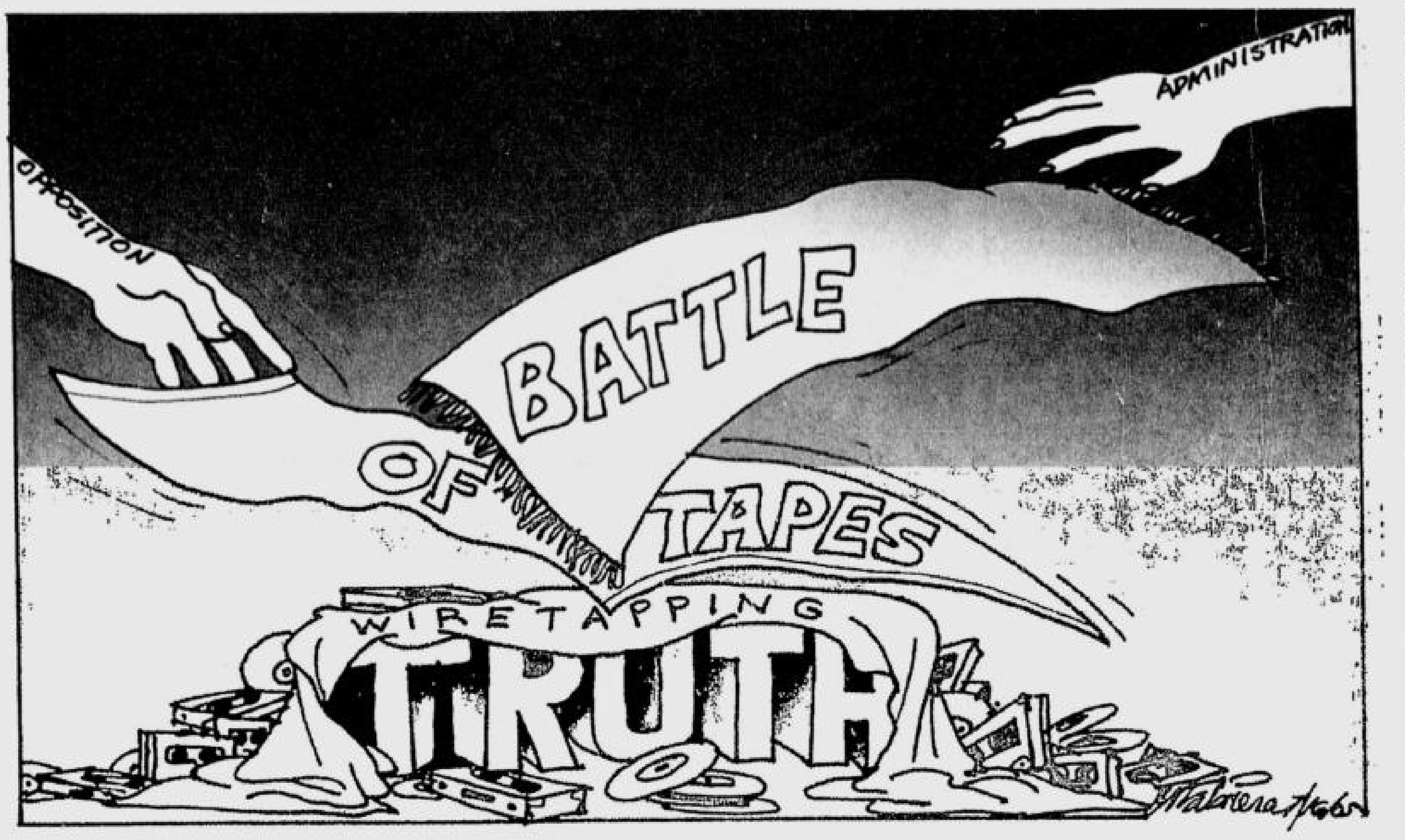
Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita was defending government efforts to counter the opposition rally the other day, when he said the military and police had to keep a tight watch because the threat of terrorism remains. He pointed to London as an example. It would be wrong to dismiss outright his warning as an alarm in aid of administration survival. The threat is there. It is real. It deserves sustained attention.

The resignation of Teresita Deles, President Macapagal-Arroyo's former adviser on the peace process, has left a vacuum. It has been said by those close to her that Deles wanted to stand by the President for as long as possible because a major peace agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front was at hand. But she had to resign because she felt, rightly or wrongly, that the President's focus on staying in power made her efforts irrelevant.

This leaves practically unattended, however, the problem of peace in Mindanao, and the continuing threat from radical elements there and elsewhere. Instead of being a token participant in US President George W. Bush's war on terrorism in Iraq, Ms Arroyo should realize that the Philippines can play a much bigger and more significant role in the international effort to combat terrorism by taking care of the home court, and not being part of exhibition matches abroad. Our neighbors strongly feel this, and from time to time, neighbors like Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and even those slightly farther afield, like Australia, say as much in private to our officials.

The London bombings were horrific, but the reaction of British authorities was swift, well organized and levelheaded. They serve as a reminder to all governments that in fighting terrorism, it is imperative not to forget that contingency plans in case of terrorist attacks need to be in place. The worst moment in a city or nation's life can also be one of its finest.

Our own government still needs to do much as far as integrating its contingency plans with the private sector and even the media are concerned. The political uncertainties of the present should not be an excuse for our government to dilute its counter-terrorism efforts. Neither should undue alarm be propagated by the government for political ends



The missing Garcillano

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE APPARENT victory of President Macapagal-Arroyo last week is only temporary because she has yet to explain the Garci tapes still under investigation in the House of Representatives.

If she wants the public to believe that there was nothing criminal or malicious in her taped conversations with Virgilio Garcillano, she should produce the former Comelec commissioner to corroborate her claim. Not many people are willing to accept her self-serving explanation at face value, considering her many previous broken promises. Chief of these was her sworn assurance in 2003 that she would not run in the presidential election last year.

If anyone can confirm her June 27 statement, it is Garcillano, who was at the other end of the supposedly innocent conversation where, many believe, she instructed the pliant commissioner to falsify the election results to give her a million-vote margin over her closest rival. They will probably also disbelieve Garcillano, given his also tarnished reputation and record, but GMA will at least not be alone in peddling her excuse that she was just anxious to speed up the election results.

The trouble is that Garcillano has disappeared as if he were a wanted felon, giving rise to the Biblical saying that "the wicked flee when no man pursueth but the righteous are as bold as the lion." Perhaps he believes in the conciliatory caution that "discretion is the better part of valor." A man with nothing to hide should not hesitate to face the music and proclaim his honesty, but not Garcillano, who has not surfaced since the tapes that now bear his name were exposed. He is still lurking in the shadows with his deep, dark (?) secrets.

He is now wanted by the five investigating committees of the House of Representatives and by the Commission on Elections too, but only as a witness. Malacañang is supposedly also looking for him although not with dragnet determination and skill but merely *pro forma*. A persistent rumor is that he has been spirited away by the military and is now enjoying anonymous security, away from our prying eyes somewhere in the United States.

Garcillano's wife insists that her husband has not left for abroad and is still in the Philippines but she is unable (or unwilling) to specify his whereabouts among our 7,100 islands. Some wags say that is understandable because most wives do not know where their husbands are. But the bloodhounds of President Arroyo cannot be as helpless if the immigration office correctly says that it has no record of Garcillano leaving the Philippines. That is not at all reassuring, of course, because persons arrive and leave this country without its knowledge, and often with its knowledge but without any official record.

If it is true that Garcillano has not fled to less inquisitive shores, there is no reason why he cannot be discovered wherever he may be in our archipelago, which is small enough to be accommodated in the state of California. The AFP and the PNP should be commanded to conduct a massive search for the missing witness so he can testify on the correct content of the controversial tapes and the real purpose and instructions of GMA concerning the election results in Mindanao. If the INQUIRER could recently interview Garcillano by phone in his secret location, it is unbelievable that Malacañang, with all its investigative resources, does not know where he is.

The apparent disinterest of President Arroyo in finding Garcillano has raised the reasonable suspicion that she is not anxious for him to appear from wherever he is hiding. "Hiding" is appropriately and intentionally used here because he would otherwise have boldly shown up to answer whatever questions may be put to him by the authorities investigating the Garci tapes.

The ranks of the discontented and suspicious citizens, with the opposition adding fuel to the fire, are threatening to disrupt peaceful government and establish a new political order beyond the limits of the Constitution. This appears to be their lawless alternative because President Arroyo is not expected to resign or be successfully impeached. In any case, Vice President Noli de Castro is unacceptable to them as her constitutional successor because of his glaring lack of credentials.

One is led to conjecture that President Arroyo is reluctant for Garcillano to show up because his revelations, whether voluntary or elicited, will incriminate her for falsifying the 2004 election for her undeserved benefit. What she does not seem to realize is that such suspicion will still continue even if Garcillano does not emerge and testify because of the general feeling that it was she who ordered the dangerous witness to disappear.

The helpless and befuddled GMA is in a Catch 22 situation. And her predicament has been aggravated by the angry accusations raised by Susan Roces against what she said was the insincerity of the President's statement regarding the conduct of the 2004 election that the embittered widow said was won by her late husband. I would support her valiant stance provided she dissociates herself from the politicians who are using her for their own selfish motives.

Problems with the expanded VAT

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

CONGRESS must shoulder a lot of the blame for the problems that the E-VAT law is facing from the cases brought before the Supreme Court as well as from an embattled administration that is suspected of being behind the Court's issuance of a temporary restraining order. And while one should always resist the temptation to say "I told you so" when something goes wrong, the fact is that the E-VAT wouldn't be having those problems if only Congress, particularly the Senate, had paid more attention to what the Good Friday paper of the UP-11 economists had to say, and paid less attention to political self-interest and pride.

Take the provision of the E-VAT law which gives the President the authority to raise the rate from 10 percent to 12 percent in January 2006, after certain conditions are fulfilled. That provision, unfortunately, also gave the opposition the opening to question its constitutionality (per the Constitution, only Congress has the power to tax). It is easy to surmise that Congress' (or more accurately, the Senate's) reasons for delegating the raising of the tax to the President were less than noble: it wanted to avoid bearing the brunt of the displeasure of the people by making her the scapegoat; and another was that it wanted to stick to its position that the requisite revenues can be raised without increasing the tax rates, but by merely increasing the coverage.

Or take one of three provisions in the E-VAT law regarded by the petitioners as being unconstitutional because they are inequitable (unequal taxation): the one that prevents a business from crediting, as it normally would, the entire VAT it has paid on its investment purchases (e.g., machines, construction) in the same year these are made, but instead requires it to claim the VAT credit in installments over a five-year period.

The UP-11 had this to say about the provision: "This amounts to extending a loan to the government equal to the opportunity cost of the funds tied up in its impounded VAT credits. The size of this compulsory loan increases with the investment being made and the prevailing interest rate....The upshot of this is to penalize investment by effectively taxing it. Between two otherwise identical firms, one of which makes an investment while the other does not, the latter by not investing can avoid tying up its funds unnecessarily in a forced loan to the government.

"In their zeal to show that revenue can be earned without a higher VAT rate, proponents of this shrewd measure have accomplished the seemingly impossible: they have managed to employ a consumption tax to tax investment instead—all this in a bid to rescue a somewhat desperate notion."

The Senate refused to listen. And the House either agreed with it, or didn't realize the implications.

Another strong recommendation of the UP-11 that Congress disregarded, was to support the principle but postpone the inclusion of petroleum products and electricity generation under the VAT system. In the former case, until such time as the economy will have adjusted to higher world oil prices (or when the price of petroleum is on a downtrend), and in the latter case, because a universal charge is by law to be imposed on the industry by next year. "To impose both a universal charge and the VAT in this case would unduly discourage power consumption and impose an additional burden when there is no economic or social reason for doing so."

The Senate did not listen. And the negative political impact of the rise in prices of petroleum products and electricity at this time could be the reason (as Purisima claims) the administration may have used its influence to get a postponement of the law's implementation from the Supreme Court.

But blame cannot be laid on Congress for the plight of the gasoline dealers (who also filed suit) and other businesses in the same boat. It is not the legal provision that may be the culprit in this case. Rather the problem is the poor comprehension of English on the part of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Department of Finance.

What does the provision say? "Excess Output or Input Tax.—If at the end of any taxable quarter .... the input tax exceeds the output tax, the excess shall be carried over to the succeeding quarter or quarters: Provided, that the input tax inclusive of input VAT carried over from the previous quarter that may be credited in every quarter shall not exceed 70 percent of the output VAT."

It should be clear from this that the 70 percent limit on creditable input VAT applies only when a carry-over situation has taken place, i.e., when the input VAT exceeds the output VAT. In the case of businesses like gasoline stations and distribution utilities, their input VAT, although higher than 70 percent of output VAT, never exceeded it. So since there was never any carry-over, the provision should not apply to them. Alas, the two agencies' interpretation applies the 70 percent cap in all cases.

That is not the intent of the law. But because of this interpretation, all low-margin businesses are penalized. Not only will they be paying an effectively higher VAT tax rate, but they will have permanent and growing working capital burdens, an eventually insurmountable financing burden. The end result is investments will be discouraged.

And all because some people couldn't read English.

Will our troubles never end?

Shoe is on the other foot

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

ILOCOS Gov. Chavit Singson's exposé on a supposed Erap tape caused consternation in the ranks of the opposition, and struck many as rather funny since the shoe is now on the other foot. I ended up laughing when I heard former Sen. Francisco Tatad solemnly intoning that the government and Singson could be liable for wiretapping under the Anti-Wiretapping Law. There was also Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who was caught on the Chavit tape supposedly agreeing to the Erap plan to do away with President Macapagal-Arroyo and eventually Fidel Ramos, opining that the tape was spliced. *Madaling gawin 'yan,* he said.

* * *

Chavit, interviewed after Erap lawyer Rene Saguisag had said his piece, articulated the thought in many minds: How come the opposition is now saying that mere possession of a wiretapped tape is violation of the law, whereas they did not say the same thing when Alan Paguia and Samuel Ong were peddling their "Hello, Garci" tapes? I suspect that that clever old fox from Ilocos does not have any illusion that people would take seriously his tape allegedly showing Erap, former AFP Chief of Staff Joselin Nazareno and Lacson plotting the assassination of GMA, or Erap and Nazareno trying to cheat in FPJ's favor in Mindanao. I think he merely wants to show that the tale of the tape is as confusing as ever, with the dramatis personae changing from tape to tape. To think that at this moment an impeachment trial could be based on such wild speculations!

* * *

A House opposition leader was quoted as conceding that street protests won't topple GMA, prompting the opposition to shift its focus to the impeachment move in Congress. This realization obviously came about when the opposition failed to muster an impressive crowd in its Makati rally last Wednesday. There are a number of reasons for this failure. One is the dominance of red flags in the rally. While Left-wing groups, not the political parties, often provide many of the warm bodies for the rallies, last Wednesday's doubtless spooked the business community. As Asian Institute of Management president Roberto de Ocampo put it, "Most of the protesters are extremists and most of us would prefer to go the legal route and are a little bit reluctant to open the door to extremists if other avenues are available." The attempt by some 200 farmers and fishermen bearing red flags to take over the Department of Agriculture yesterday unfortunately reinforced this perception.

* * *

Another reason people seem to hesitate to join the group opposing President Arroyo, now bolstered by the defection of seven Cabinet members and a faction of the Liberal Party, is the realization that should GMA resign, the nation could be plunged into chaos. The INQUIRER last Thursday ran an article that pitted the anti- and pro-GMA groups in a kind of *sabong*. While the pro-GMA group has only one agenda, which is to keep her in power, the opposition leaders, while united in demanding her resignation, are divided on the post-GMA scenario. As the INQUIRER article noted, Raul Roco wants snap elections; Renato de Villa wants a revolutionary council; Aquilino Pimentel wants both GMA and Noli de Castro to resign and elections held; Eddie Villanueva wants a "righteous and principled revolutionary government"; Joseph Estrada wants a caretaker government to take over; some leftist groups want a people's democratic council of leaders, and other militants want a revolutionary transition government; some ultra-rightist groups such as Fortunato Abat's want a junta or revolutionary transition council. More groups seem to be in favor of a revolutionary council or junta, but each group has its own cast of characters. *Magulo.*

* * *

From the above, two things are evident: (1) that a GMA exit could bring about even more disunity, and (2) the opposing groups have no intention of recognizing De Castro as her constitutional successor. The truism that too many cooks spoil the broth seems evident in the opposition's case; to put it differently, they are singing with such discordant voices. No wonder market analysts, such as Victor Abola, senior economist of the University of Asia and the Pacific, are saying that the worst appears to be over for GMA. This realization may also be the reason support for her has snowballed in the past few days.

* * *

That the worst is over for GMA may be too precipitate a statement to make, considering that the opposition in the House is gearing up for impeachment, which is a numbers game. But perhaps there are House members who may realize the grim fact that resignation or a Senate conviction of GMA won't bring about the desired unity, and they would ultimately vote to kill the impeachment resolution.

In the meantime, Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman has cautioned his colleagues to refrain from endorsing "with alacrity" the impeachment complaint filed by lawyer Oliver Lozano, before the committee on justice conducts hearings on its merits. He cautioned against "abbreviating" the proceedings in the House, for no matter how brilliantly a complaint may be crafted, "it is still only an allegation of ultimate facts and not proof of inculpatory facts." He said the committee and ultimately the plenary should be given the opportunity to fully assess the evidence and determine the merits of the complaint, before the impeachment complaint is forwarded to the Senate for trial.

Lagman's warning evidently came in the wake of moves in the House to recruit 79 signatures to endorse the complaint. Per House rules, if this number is obtained, established procedures would be cut short, with the complaint being transmitted to the Senate after it is determined to be sufficient in substance and form.

Lagman is right. This matter is of such serious and far-reaching import to the nation that it deserves careful deliberation.

A day in Aichi

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ONE of the best parts of my recent trip to Japan, to take part in the Seventh International Conference on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific held in Kobe, was the day trip I made to the World Expo 2005 in Aichi, a prefecture about an hour's drive away from Nagoya.

Thanks to Marian Pastor-Roces, who helped design and conceptualize the award-winning Philippine pavilion at the Expo and who got in touch with Araceli "Arcie" Soriano, tourism attaché to Japan and pavilion director, I managed to draw up an itinerary for a brief visit to Aichi.

I left Kobe around nine in the morning (after more than an hour figuring out the city's public transport system) on board a Shinkanzen, more popularly known as a "bullet train." When I asked the Japan Travel Bureau how long the train ride would take, the reply was "75 minutes." And indeed, so reliable is the country's railroad system that you can, as the saying goes, set your watch by the trains' comings and goings. A one-way Kobe-Nagoya ticket costs about $70 (almost P4,000), not a small sum, but when I boarded the non-reserved car, it was standing room only.

Arcie met me at the Nagoya train station and we made our way to Aichi by car. But for a little over $10, visitors can take a 45-minute bus ride to the Expo grounds. A ticket to the Expo itself costs about $45.

The main reason I wanted to visit the Expo was to tour the Philippine pavilion, which Marian had described in lyrical detail in an e-mail message to her friends after it was announced that it had just been named the winner in the "small pavilion" category. And I tell you, just entering the pavilion and mingling among the awe-struck visitors made me proud to be Filipino.

* * *

A COMMON approach to the design of a national pavilion for events like the Expo is to impress and dazzle visitors, if not with the sheer size and scope of the exhibits and the pavilion itself, then with exotic displays, technical wizardry or sheer cleverness.

Designer/curator Pastor-Roces and architect Ed Calma, however, chose to go in the other direction. Since we couldn't hope to compete in terms of size, technology or dazzle, the Philippine pavilion instead draws in visitors to its dim interiors, an oasis of calm and quiet in the midst of the general cacophony outside. Instead of flash and "*bongga*," our pavilion employs intimacy and delicacy. The structure itself was inspired by the lowly coconut, the "fruit of life," and employs building materials from the coconut tree. Inside, the walls of the exhibit area are sheathed in opaque coverings of *piña*-silk, while the exhibit—arrayed in low, undulating shelves—celebrates the "monumental nature of the small." A montage of film clips from historical movies and documentaries, set to ethnically inspired music, runs constantly in the background.

The interiors are dominated by a sphere, fashioned from tiles of coco shell, inside which is a room called "Essences," in which tired Expo-goers can rest awhile on banquets upholstered in abaca ("Our visitors are constantly running their hands through it," notes Arcie) and breathe in the fragrance of native flowers like sampaguita and ylang-ylang. Upstairs is to be found the already-famous lounge, furnished with modern Philippine-designed pieces, and where visitors can get free 15-minute head-and-shoulder massages.

* * *

WHEN Arcie and I arrived at the pavilion, we found a long line of visitors snaking along the entrance, testifying to the popularity of our small pavilion.

Many come for the free massages, though because of word-of-mouth, the waiting list is usually filled up long before noon. But other visitors are just as drawn to the exhibits, which draw them in and force them to bend and scrutinize the items, some of which are so small they require magnifying glasses. I could hear visitors, especially Japanese, oohing and aahing at the intricate filigree jewelry, complex and yet delicate embroidery and crude carvings, appealing, I suppose, to the very Japanese love for refinement and delicacy.

Others may come simply for the food, at the small food service station called "Latik" and managed by Via Mare. The counter offers native fare (Arcie and I shared a wonderful lunch of *lechon kawali, pinakbet* and *bangus*) and a very popular *calamansi* drink. There's also a souvenir shop, tucked away in a discreet corner, the better not to clutter the interior's spare, minimalist milieu, a sharp contrast to the other pavilions which are little more than marketplaces or emporia.

What our pavilion may lack in space and technology, it makes up for with class and sophistication. We may indeed be a small, poor country but from the collective power of the small in our midst, we can come together and create structures that impress and exhibits that tell us so much about ourselves.

* * *

CREATING and maintaining the pavilion called for team work and concerted effort over several months. Two Tourism secretaries were involved in the planning process: Roberto Pagdanganan and Ace Durano. Overseeing the preparations was Director General Rosvi Gaetos of the PCVC. Aside from Calma and Pastor-Roces, others involved in conceptualizing the pavilion design were Denise de Castro, Butch Perez (for the film installation) and Ken Taura, consultant.

Arcie Soriano, on the other hand, manages a small team, some of whom have already been recalled to Manila. Those still working at the pavilion are Tina Flores, Tonette Laron, Racquel Tria, Jojo Alcantara, Daproso Fraginal, Allan Rimas, Mhean Lovejor, Wendy Fajardo, Eloisa Romero, Roselle Romero, Rogie Apelo, Camille Cruz, Janina Juan, Chimatsu Motogama, Yuki Noguchi and Yuko Tsugawa.

To the team, congratulations for doing our country proud!

Elements of a fiesta in 1876

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

AT TWILIGHT, the entire village and visitors from neighboring towns in gala dress gathered at the churchyard to take part in the fiesta of the district. The bell tower was illuminated from base to summit by countless lamps. Graceful bamboo arches constructed at short intervals across the main street and colored lanterns and devices in the church porch were lighted up, under which the procession would pass.

On one side of the road were men and boys in their fluttering shirts and, on the other side, women and girls in silk gowns with glowing candles in their hands "orderly and decorous in word and gesture." First would emerge the statue of a Virgin-Martyr from the church, diademed and bedizened with real jewels glittering amid colored ribbons, borne on a silver *carrosa* amid a blaze of tapers that lighted up the dark as it passed along the deep foliage along the road. This was followed by more marchers, then another image, perhaps of St. Michael or St. Peter, one more gorgeously attired than its predecessor. Three or four more images would follow while more devotees joined the procession that moved along, a double serpent of brilliance.

The most important image was that of the Blessed Mother on a gigantic silver *carrosa* enthroned amid a resplendent pyramid of candles borne on the shoulders of faithful devotees: "Our Lady comes smiling and smart/ With a pink gauze gown over spangles/ and seven swords stuck in her heart." The village dignitaries, wearing their black official jackets, marched on one side and their wives in their brightest silks on the other.

All around swelled the devout murmur of prayers, closely followed by the village band blaring their liveliest marches interrupted at intervals by the firing of rockets and bursting of firecrackers.

After an hour or so circling the town, candles, images, band and all reentered the church for the solemn benediction before the crowd dispersed for the festivities and amusements.

For wealthy households, this meant hours of supper and dancing, songs and cigars. The *cabeza de barangay's* house would be brilliantly lighted and crowded with invited and uninvited guests who came to admire the chandeliers, the décor, the musicians and the dancers as well as to partake of the unlimited refreshments on the sideboards. If the *señor* had worries about how to pay off the debt he incurred for the festivities, it didn't show on his face as he went about, with unvarying hospitality, greeting the guests.

But the main event, which young and old had come to watch and with which the food and dancing, roast pig and waltz couldn't compete, was on the plaza, not far from the church and the houses of the *ilustrados*. There a booth, framed in bamboo, draped and decorated with white and red cloth surmounted by flags, was constructed for the occasion. Inside it was a stage, very brightly lit for the entertainment of the admiring crowd that would stand for hours to watch. On either side were improvised boxes with seats hung with bright colors, giving the *principalia* a better and more comfortable view of the stage.

The drama presented usually had numerous characters: kings, queens, nobles, soldiers, damsels in distress, counselors, all dressed in their gayest costumes. The plot was generally an adaptation of a Bible story, Joseph and his brothers, for instance, or sometimes semi-historical accounts of wars and myths. The dialogue was generally in verse, the acting energetic.

Two characters were permanent: One was the buffoon, quaintly attired, who throughout the play, whether it was a light moment or a serious scene, would suddenly appear and address the cast, generally made up of boys attired in female dress. He either mimicked them as asides for the audience to provide comic relief or followed their own speeches and gestures. The other permanent character was the prompter, unseen by the audience but reciting in a loud voice all the lines of the play to be repeated by the actors.

The performance was seldom less than three hours, sometimes extending into successive nights, but it never seemed to tire the audience.

Near midnight there was a sudden flare of light and a noise like a musketry discharge summoning all to a field outside the village where a "castle" was lit up. It was a bamboo tower of two, three or four tiers with turrets and battlements reaching 25 and sometimes 30 feet in height. Every part of the frame contained "squibs, crackers, Catherine wheels, Roman candles and rockets." At some distance were more outworks also of bamboo and densely covered with fireworks.

Finally at midnight, a preliminary outburst of rockets filled the air, exploding with showers of falling stars in green, red, purple and blue to usher the grand act. From every side the "castle" exploded, crackling and hissing and lighting up the darkness around. At every fresh explosion, there was rapturous applause. Sometimes the crowd's excitement was intensified by a fiery bull of wicker framework festooned with crackers rushing hither and thither among the spectators who scurried away amid shrieks and laughter. (Within were a couple of men protected by thick hides controlling the crackling monster.)

Thus midnight passed all too soon, the explosions stopped and in a few minutes, all was darkness again as the crowd dwindled away and headed for home and sleep.

(*Data from William Palgrave, "Country Life in the Philippines."*)

Our fight

YOUNG BLOOD

Nini Hernandez

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I HARDLY remember the 1986 political rallies against the Marcos dictatorship and government corruption. But I do remember my dad carrying me on his shoulders on Edsa, where we joined the multitude in prayer and bravely facing tanks and soldiers. I also remember my dad taking me to the street celebration when Marcos finally fled.

I was 6 years old then, but I believe my dad did all that for my future. He showed me how to become a responsible citizen. He showed me how to be vigilant and how people of the same thought and intention can overthrow a corrupt regime.

Years went by, but things didn't change. The only things that changed were the faces of the people in power.

When 2001 came, a philandering actor-turned-politician was on the hot seat. His plunder proved to be more than what the people could take. My eyes were riveted on our TV watching the Senate hearing when the senators voted to keep the second envelope sealed. I was outraged and so were millions of others, including my family.

I forgot about the thesis I was writing and went to Edsa to join the multitude once more. This time I was with my dad, my mom, my two brothers and my little sister. The crowd was younger, and there were no tanks or soldiers. We just chanted and ranted and hoped for the best. The rally was filled with music and prayers. There were political speeches, about which I couldn't care less for they were being delivered by two-faced politicians who were just trying to save their sorry asses. We had a grand party when Erap stepped down. And this time, I remembered everything.

On May 1 that same year, I was in Mendiola. I wasn't there to protect the incumbent President. I was there to fight for what I had stood for in Edsa II. I was there with my family when the pro-Erap mob attacked.

When the mob began closing in on Malacañang, my dad sent us home, fearing for our safety. He stayed behind with a group of well-meaning strangers. When the mob attacked, they were taken inside San Beda College to keep them away from harm.

I remember me and my mom calling him up many times, worried about his safety. I remember feeling relieved when the mob was dispersed. We picked him up at Malacañang Park, where they had been asked to move when violence erupted.

Four years later, nothing has changed. We have failed. We still have the same corrupt government sending the economy on a nose dive. We still have hungry Filipinos collecting leftover food from garbage cans to survive. We still have homeless *kababayan* who sleep on sidewalks and under bridges. Our government is still dependent on dollar remittances from our hardworking workers abroad. Our government that relies on other countries to provide employment for Filipinos.

Now, we are at a dead end—or are we? We don't know anymore. Things have turned from bad to worse and we don't know what to do.

Now, I have listened to those appalling tapes. My siblings and I detest the politicians who defend GMA. What she did was wrong and an apology is not enough. I want her to resign. I have grown tired of taking to the streets. That effort proved futile: after two Edsa events, we still have the same corrupt government.

I ask GMA to set aside her personal interest and resign for love of country. I want her to resign and show that she still cares for our country.

No more bloodshed. No more rallies. Our country can only take so much.

I am now 25 and I want to have a better future. I want those who will come after us to have a better life. I love my country, just like my father. Now, I am asking him to join me in this fight.

Challenge

Ella F. Cordero

I DARE you.

Susan Roces, I dare you to be the next president. If you think you've got what it takes to run a country laid low by poverty, be my guest.

What's your plan? Giving a ton of emotionally charged speeches regarding how great your husband would have been as president won't move me to action. He's dead and unless by some miracle we can bring him back to life, he won't be of any practical help right now. Dropping motherhood statements about stamping out graft and corruption are just empty words to me.

Words do not feed hungry people. Words do not create jobs. Words are cheap and do not mean anything, unless they are backed by action. So I dare you to act now and stop poverty, hunger and unemployment.

If you can create jobs in the depressed communities of Manila and stop malnutrition, I assure you that you will become the Mother Teresa of the Philippines and you will be hailed as a living saint. Here's a thought: Why not give away your money (and your husband's money) to the poor?

So you think you can hack it? You need to be a saint to be able to lift up a morally and financially bankrupt country.

Thus, before you go out into battle, I suggest that you take a crash course so you will know how it really is out there. Reading the newspaper or watching television about the sad state of our nation is nothing compared to seeing poverty stare you in the face.

Try talking to a family of nine staying in a two-meter-by-four-meter home along the *riles* of Manila. You will be told that neither the mother nor the father has a permanent job because of lack of education. Some of their neighbors have tuberculosis and the kids running in the streets have worms. I know this because I am a student nurse serving this small community along Algeciras Street in Manila.

So I urge you, please help these poor people. And please don't give them Band-Aid because they've been receiving that all of their lives and they can smell a publicity stunt from a mile a way. Let me reiterate: These people need jobs and food on the table. Can you grant these two simple requests?

Is this a tall order for you? I understand that you may not be able to stomach all this. I just have to look at your favorite 13-year-old American grandson to see that you may not be as patriotic as you want people to believe.

I may only be a student nurse, but I serve the poorest and most desperate members of our society. If you can deliver as you say you will, I take my hat off to you. If you don't, things will still be as they are. The poor people will still be hungry while your grandson will be back in the United States living a carefree life.

Ella F. Cordero, 25, is a 3rd year nursing student in a school in Manila.

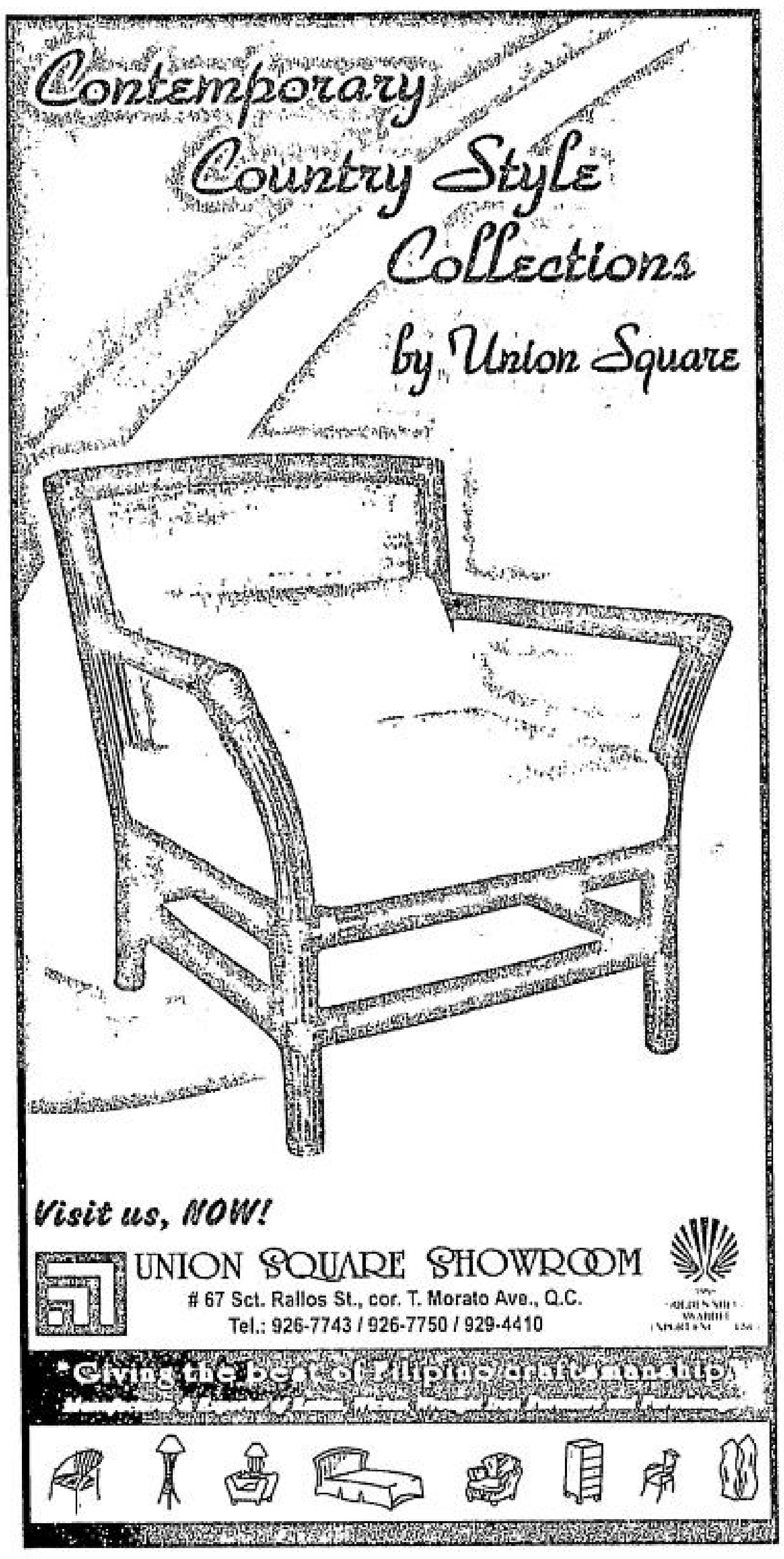
A prayer amid the confusion

...THAT this time of national crisis would be a moment for the President, the administration, the leaders of the opposition and the Filipino people as a whole to search our hearts. To let God "cross-examine and test us, and get a clear picture of what we're about." (Psalm 139:23) For the President and her officials, to see if they are not motivated by self-protection. For those in the opposition, to spot if they are not tempted to grab power. For all of us, to investigate ourselves if we have never committed anything unethical or immoral. And that God would then "lead us in the way that is true." (Psalm 139:24)

...That the solution to this crisis of leadership would be peaceful. This should be something every one of us can agree on, regardless of our position. This is where the business community, the Church, the military and all the other sectors of society can be one. This means we must resist any and all violent and vicious measures to resolve this leadership predicament. And may the Lord sound the call to his followers to be, as he puts it, "peacemakers"—willing to be caught in the crossfire, risking to be called names and be distrusted, promoting and pursuing peace no matter what it will cost them.

...That individual Christ-followers and whole communities of faith would, in our decidedly divided and polarized situation now, be devoted to searching for a third way past this polarization. To receive clarity and begin to think the-kingdom-of-God way. That in our culture and politics of self-interest, we would pursue what is good and beneficial for the land. And that the people of God would recover our call to "do justice and love and kindness as we walk humbly with our God." So may God grant us the wisdom to know deeply and the courage to follow completely His ways amid all the confusion and uncertainty of the times.

—**RENCHI ARCE,**
Vineyard Community of Faith,
studentofjesus@gmail.com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Giving the best of Filipino craftsmanship

Back to Spanish occupation

WE might as well go back to the Spanish period, when friars ruled the Philippines and had a say on practically everything in the lives of our people, including in the running of government. Even the governor general, who was appointed by the Spanish monarch, trembled at the thought of displeasing the Catholic Church.

The Filipino today has not yet outgrown this unfortunate habit, in spite of Rizal's novels. Many of our politicians, who dance like idiots and clowns during election time, do not have the spine to implement a national population control program—simply because of fear of the Church, which is against artificial contraceptives.

Why on earth are we allowing a bunch of bishops to decide who should be our president, who should be elected to the Congress and Senate? The Church was in Edsa I to endorse Cory Aquino. It was in Edsa II to bless Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo when she took over from Erap Estrada. These two administrations have been proven to be failures. Are the bishops willing to accept full responsibility for egging another Edsa?

Sadly, the Catholic Church in the Philippines has become another branch of government, with many priests acting more and more like politicians. Maybe this is one reason our poor country can't take off. People are just too scared of being excommunicated so that no one dares question this intrusion by the Church into the affairs of the state.

—**OSCAR LEI,**
oscarlei_toronto@yahoo.ca

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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Not party to the transaction

WE are writing with reference to the column of Conrado Banal III, titled "Two peas in a fraud." (PDI, 7/7/05)

We wish to clarify that, contrary to Banal's statements in that article, JPMorgan did not have any participation in the alleged transaction (pertaining to the Equitable PCIBank merger) with the Go family.

—**FREDERIC C. DYBUNCIO,**
senior country officer,
JPMorgan, 31/F Philamlife Tower,
8767 Paseo de Roxas St.,
Makati City

Rosary for wisdom and courage

AS it is, the political forces in the Philippines are now polarized, and the need to prepare and ensure that violence is prevented is already felt by many.

If the political turbulence turns from bad to worse, the very life of the nation will be threatened and it now becomes urgent for us to turn to the power of prayer.

We follow and expand on the example of the Archdiocese of Cebu which has assumed a state of prayerfulness and has called on all peaceful, law-abiding and freedom-loving Filipinos to participate in the Living Rosary For Life on the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

We request all Filipino Catholics wherever they may be on July 16 (Saturday) to pray with us the mysteries of the Holy Rosary in a simultaneous nationwide broadcast on television and on radio. Strung together like beads by our common intentions, we will confront the present political problems not so much with people power but with the power of united prayer.

We will pray for:

1. For a peaceful and meaningful resolution of the political crisis in the Philippines.
2. For the enlightenment and guidance of our leaders in government, as well as for those in civil society, business and industry and the labor sector.
3. For the adherence to the democratic process and to the rule of law in order to prevent the present political crisis from degenerating into lawlessness and violence.
4. For the poor and marginalized so that, in the midst of the current political turmoil, their needs and sufferings are not further neglected.
5. For a truly pro-life Philippines which welcomes all human life and protects and nurtures that which the Lord has created, especially the most innocent, defenseless and vulnerable.

We ask each and every Filipino Catholic, of whatever political affiliation or leaning to set aside their opinion and position momentarily, even for just one hour, so that we may all be united in supplication to our Blessed Mother for the sake of our country.

We call on Mary to intercede for our country so that sin, which is the root of the political, social and economic problems of the country, may be overcome by the graces which the Lord will send to us in abundance if we but invoke the assistance of the Mother of Divine Grace.

"This Year of the Eucharist reminds us of the abiding, loving and healing presence of the Lord Jesus in our midst. By the grace and mercy of God and the maternal protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we pray that a deep sense of hope will prevail in these dark moments of our history. Our loving God will not abandon us no matter what pit of evil we have fallen into. We shall emerge stronger from this crisis. We shall rise endowed with greater integrity. We shall be witnesses to the power of God's grace to transform us into a noble nation, a holier Church, a united people."

—**CHELLE CRISANTO,**
representative,
Living Rosary for Life,
996 Pablo Ocampo Sr. St.,
Malate, Manila

Makisawsaw na!
Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines

Butch O. Saulon
Bachelor in Secondary Education
University of Nueva Caceres
Theater thespian
Fishball fanatic
Most Outstanding College Student of Camarines Sur (2004)

Jeffrey P. Mora
BS Chemistry Ladderized, FEU
Videoke King
Nocturnal gimikero
President, FEU Central Student Organization, (2004-05)

Kiran Tina M. Vaswani
BS Management Information Systems
Ateneo De Manila University
Loves Indian dances
Procter and Gamble Student Excellence Awardee (2004)

Mohlan R. Josol
BS Agriculture
University of Southern Mindanao
Self-taught chef
Tree lover
2005 USM Most Outstanding Student of the Year

Bryan Albert T. Lim
BS Biology
UP - Cebu
Nikelodeon and Disney fan
Expert violinist
Ten Outstanding Students of Region VII (2005)

Anna Theresa L. Licaros
BA Broadcast Communication
UP - Diliman
Loves smelling books before buying them
Outstanding Student in Multidisciplinary Scholarship

Joseph Patrick D. Echevarria
BS Physics with Computer Engineering
Ateneo de Manila University
Classic movie afficionado
Valedictorian, Ateneo de Manila University (2005)

Beauregard Grant L. Cheng
BS Manufacturing Engineering Management
DLSU
Scuba diver
Sisig fanatic
Recipient, Procter and Gamble Student Excellence Award

Kip F. Oebanda
AB Dev. Economics
San Beda College
Ragnarock champ
Founder and Secretary-General, Child Laborers and Advocates for Social Participation

Bryan M. Ty
BS in Industrial Engineering
Ateneo de Davao University
Basketball fan
Hopeless romantic
Outstanding Student from 1st to 4th year

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US pledges $26M for Mindanao peace

COTABATO CITY—The United States government has earmarked at least $26.5 million this year for peace and development efforts in Mindanao.

Scott Bellard, acting deputy chief of mission of the US Embassy, said the funds would be coursed through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

He said that of the total amount, $4 million will be used for livelihood assistance to former Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) fighters.

At least $11 million would be spent to develop economic infrastructure in conflict affected areas, particularly for the construction of "high visibility infrastructure projects to help spur economic development."

Bellard said USAID also plans to accelerate economic and business development in Mindanao at the cost of about $4.5 million.

He said the US government also allotted $3 million to increase access to micro-finance services through rural banks and credit cooperatives.

He said USAID will also spend $4 million for the delivery of social services in the provinces of Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Sulu, Basilan, Tawi-tawi and Marawi City and to improve efficiency, transparency, and accountability in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Bellard said they will also provide technical assistance for business development, including support for eight business support organizations, "to enable them to achieve targets set in their business development plans."

"The USAID will also shift an estimated 4,000 beneficiaries of livelihood assistance to production and marketing of higher value fruits, vegetables, and aquaculture products. Exports of fish, fruit and vegetables to growing Asian markets from Mindanao are expected to grow by as much as 15 percent per year," Bellard said.

In Jolo, Sulu Gov. Benjamin Loong said programs funded by the government have been stalled because of the political crisis hounding the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Loong said the delay was also due to the resignation of Presidential Peace Adviser Teresita Deles and Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Dinky Soliman.

Both officials led the government's rehabilitation effort for displaced families in Panamao, Indanan, Patikul and Luuk towns.

Jeoffrey Maitem and Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Quake jolts Visayas, sends folk to panic

ILOILO CITY—A mild earthquake struck the Visayas early yesterday sending residents out of their homes in panic but causing no casualties or damages.

The earthquake, which was of tectonic origin, jolted residents around 6:53 a.m., according to a bulletin issued by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

The epicenter of the quake, measuring 5.0 on the Richter scale and was measured coming from 28 km deep in its center, was located 13 km southwest of Iloilo City or between the towns of Tigbauan and Oton.

It was also felt at Intensity 4 in Bacolod City, 3 in Dumaguete City, 2 in the cities of Cebu and Mandaue and in Minglanilla town in Cebu, Anini-y town in Antique, Roxas City in Capiz and Sagay City in Negros Occidental.

Text messages from residents flooded local radio stations in Iloilo as the quake shook structures for at least five seconds, causing electric posts and hanging objects to sway. Many of the residents went out of their houses when the quake struck.

There were no reports of casualties and damages according to the Office of Civil Defense in Western Visayas. *Nestor Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau*

ROUNDUP

3 fishermen killed

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Three fishermen from Lemery, Batangas were killed when they were hit by lightning on Thursday night. Police said the victims, Zaldy Sarabia, 46, his brother Elizeo, 35 and neighbor Apollo Gamboa, 33, all residents of Barangay Wawa, Batangas City, died instantly after suffering third degree burns. The three were about to leave Barangay Balanga in Lemery on board their small fishing boat when residents heard a loud noise at around 7:30 p.m. When the residents looked where the sound came from, they saw the victims' charred bodies sprawled on the shore. Police said that although it was raining intermittently that night, the local Coast Guard did not bar small fishing boats from going ashore as no thunderstorm was reported in the region. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Acting mayor takes action

CITY OF CALAPAN—Vice Mayor Robert Paras took the two-month suspension of Mayor Carlos Brucal as an opportunity to speed up city services. A city department head officer said Paras found several areas for action after conducting inspections. These included the proposed construction of the city jail, the reversal of the P300,000 local development fund for the roofing of the public market, the clean-up and renovation of the city slaughterhouse with an allotment of P250,000, and the reorganization and activation of councils like the city health board. The implementation of the Child Welfare Code is also under study. *Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Elderly woman slain

HAGONOY, Bulacan—An 82-year-old woman was stabbed and killed by men who broke into her house in Barangay San Agustin here on Wednesday. Chief Insp. Ramon Escartin, police chief here, said Feliza Figueroa, a widow, was found dead in her room at 7:30 a.m. by a granddaughter living near her house. Police said the suspects, using marble tiles, hit Figueroa in the face and then stabbed her. Escartin said the victim lived alone and owned fish ponds in this town. Police said the suspects took Figueroa's jewelry and other valuables. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Migratory bird turned over

PIHIKAN AKO SA PAGKAIN HA..

TUGUEGARAO CITY—A fisherman turned over a rare migratory bird he caught along the shores of Ballesteros, Cagayan, to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources here. Restituta Antolin, chief of the DENR's protected areas and wildlife division, said the nine-inch tall great frigate bird was caught by the fisherman on Sunday and was first turned over to policemen. The bird has a wingspan of 73 inches and feeds on blue marlin abundant in the waters off northern Cagayan. A check of endangered or threatened species in the Internet, however, showed that the status of the great frigate bird has not been categorized. *Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Peasant couple killed

CATANAUAN, Quezon—Unidentified armed men strafed the house of a peasant couple with bullets, killing them and seriously wounding their 10-year-old daughter in Barangay San Vicente Kanluran on June 28. Police said Edilberto Matining and his wife Raquel were sleeping at around 10 p.m when 15 armed men, all wearing camouflage uniforms, sprayed their house with bullets and then fled in different directions. Their daughter Rowena suffered serious bullet wounds in different parts of the body. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

NPA camp discovered

LUCENA CITY—Army soldiers engaged at least 20 New People's Army rebels in a firefight and discovered a rebel camp in Barangay San Marcelino, General Nakar, Quezon on June 27. A military report that the firefight lasted 30 minutes, after which the NPA escaped in different directions. The report said soldiers led by a certain 1Lt. Jericho Mangalus discovered at least 25 bunkers in the encounter site, which was believed to be an NPA camp. But Ramsey Astoveza, an Agta leader in General Nakar, said what was discovered was a cluster of simple huts built for the natives by the Catholic Church as a resettlement area. Another military report said that the next day, a blocking force from the Army's 16th Infantry Battalion led by 2Lt. Marcialito Escudero encountered seven NPA rebels in Barangay Sablang, also in General Nakar. A firefight lasted for about 15 minutes. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Teresa S. Abesamis

Do not resign, for now

I did not vote for Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. In fact, both times that I was asked to help in her presidential campaign in 2004, I replied to an old friend from the anti-Marcos parliament of the streets who was in the GMA camp: How could I, when I had no plans to vote for her candidate. But I did tell my friend that when it came to development goals for our people, we could always work together.

My mobile phone and email are clogged these days with messages from friends and kin taking a wide range of positions on our current events. My old friends from the Parliament of the streets are in various camps. I guess because we are now dealing with arthritis and low back pains, the streets are no longer for us. Nonetheless, the many issues that confront us today challenge our convictions and force us to crystallize our thinking on politics, development and morality. Perhaps it will lead to something good.

Because I am a development marketing and management consultant, I have gone through the Ten Point Agenda and scanned the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP), which I understand, the hardworking President actively helped to craft. I have also traveled to many areas and talked to all kinds of people: politicians, cooks, entrepreneurs, corporate lawyers, medical professionals, development technocrats.

Pro-GMA friends, I think, have heaved a sigh of relief, as if a burden has been lifted, by the departure of Jose Miguel Arroyo. On a river cruise, a governor and town mayor in Mindanao ask me why we are in such a mess in Manila while the media say they are in a mess in Mindanao. *"It is you in Manila who are in a war zone,"* they say. *"Not us. We are too busy raising productivity of our corn, banana and abaca farmers, so they can lift themselves above the poverty line."* The governor asks me, *"Who did not call Comelec in the last elections?"* This, he says is a non-issue. What they want to focus on is *"when do we get the bridge across the bay so we can transport our goods and people to and from Lanao, Bukidnon and Cagayan de Oro?"* But the Manila-based national media, he says, do not seem interested in these concerns, which are very real to his constituents. On the other hand, he says they cannot relate to the tapes and jueteng controversies which dominate the Manila media. In fact, they find it funny.

In Makati, a young banker objects to the "populist" decision-making of the President. And to the TRO by the Supreme Court stopping implementation of the E-VAT, which he says, will set back our access to financing and investments. My driver, who owns tricycles, says what will happen to his business. He blames the President for the oil-price hike and the imposition of the E-VAT. He says maybe we should now have as leader Ping Lacson who will make everybody toe the line or else. Another old friend from the NGO community asks me to join the rally with "Susan." I tell her that I remember Susan as a Marcos Blue Lady and FAMAS awardee. From Cebu, my OB-gyne kid sister, who has a bone to pick with the Church on family planning issues asks me why the Church is getting so involved in politics.

Truly, we live in interesting times and in an interesting place. It also reminds me that our fledgling, imperfect democracy is still alive and well.

Should the President be asked to resign? I ask myself what is my position on the issue. I sympathize with the idealistic young banker who wails about the impropriety of the President's act of talking to a Comelec official when she was a candidate. He considers it a moral issue. He says the President must be asked to resign, no ifs and buts. A colleague from the Parliament of the streets dating back to Ninoy's assassination in 1983 earnestly implores that perhaps if we were back to that time in our lives, our positions would be like that young man's. *"Have we become jaded and blasé?"* he asks.

Maybe indeed we have. But perhaps, too, we have experienced more and maybe seen more dimensions? Perhaps become more realistic, aware of the complexity of our situation, of the impossibility of electing an unblemished President under our seriously flawed electoral system, and thus grateful for tender mercies?

I tend to be clearer on my thoughts the morning after issues are raised. So, now a few mornings after, here is what I see as my own analysis and position, now that I see myself more as a "development entrepreneur" working for change amidst ambiguity, rather than as a political activist or moral guardian.

I do not think that our country's problems can be solved by asking the President to resign now or calling a snap election. These, to me will just provide short term, symptomatic relief. First of all, I think the electoral system and in fact, governance structures are seriously flawed and in need not just of reform but of radical restructuring through constitutional reforms. The media have not always been responsible. I think they could certainly do better in terms of fully covering the news. As the local executives say, there is more to governance than just jueteng and phone calls to Comelec, but the Manila papers must sell excitement in the streets from day to day.

As long as we have direct national elections for president and senators, we will continue on this path of electing national leaders who are either media celebrities (e.g., ERAP, Noli de Castro, Loren Legarda , Revillas senior and junior, Jinggoy, Jaworski, Freddie Webb, etc.), descendants of old political families (Macapagal, Osmena, Magsaysay) or else are able to fund heavy television advertising (Mar Roxas, Jambi Madrigal) or raise money from big donors and thus become beholden to vested interests.

So now, despite her many faults, I am for forgiving PGMA for her admitted "lapse in judgment". And letting her go on with the job of implementing her MTPDP in order to meet its fundamental goal of *"building prosperity for the greater number of the Filipino people."* No less than UN consultant Jeffrey Sachs, author of the book "The End of Poverty" has praised the plan as one of the best he has seen. And he has seen many.

What are the tender mercies? The provincial governors I have talked to have committed to support the President because she has been supportive of their development agendas, in the midst of dealing with the budget deficit, the oil price hikes, the political diatribes, the serious allegations against her family. The President has a five year development plan. She works hard and intelligently at implementing it. The local government executives have, in writing, committed to support implementation of the MTPDP. Taxes are increasingly being collected. She has made some tough, unpopular decisions and pushed for the EVAT. She has promised to do as good a job as she can as our President. Maybe now she can also be pressured into finally forgetting her political debts to vested interests. She must get rid of the scalawags, and just focus on her development agenda for the people. She has also committed to push constitutional reforms. We can work toward a federal and parliamentary system; and scrap direct national elections. Locally-elected leaders should elect the national leaders from among themselves and be accountable to their constituencies for good governance. GMA has uncharacteristically humbled herself. Let's face it. Our options right now are not very good. I say, let's give her a chance (maybe up to the end of the year) to redeem herself from her indiscretions. It will pressure her into trying her best, as she says, to be a really good President. A snap election at this time will be under the same conditions: national direct elections, national television advertising wars, expensive campaigns, huge political debts to vested interests or turning media celebrities, qualified or not, into the ruling class. *Same old problems.*

In this time of turmoil and economic hardship, we certainly need some political stability. We do have a Constitution. Let's put the electoral and jueteng issues to a constitutional process and legally determine if there was culpability. Even ERAP had to go through an impeachment trial before the people turned to the streets when the envelope opening issue had raped the process.

Social Weather Stations and NAMFREL, and even the Church hierarchy did confirm GMA's election victory. Let's have some respite from all this negativity and see what happens in the next six months. We are told to forgive seventy times seven. The President has asked for our forgiveness. We are all sinners. Why can't we forgive? Senator Joker Arroyo says it was a "venial sin." Perhaps the President was on the road to Damascus and has now found her Epiphany. The Church leaders should know what St. Paul did before and after Damascus. With new found humility, a chastened GMA might yet become a truly good president. Perhaps now, her family, and not just her daughter Luli, will behave better. The Marcoses, Estradas and Ejercitos, still unapologetic and righteous, are now marching in the streets against PGMA along with the radical left and right. I just can't see myself being on the same side as these people who have not asked for forgiveness for greater sins. Asking for GMA's resignation now, it seems to me, is caving in to their demands.

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Mangroves stop decline of village life

By Hazel P. Villa
Sibunag, Guimaras

CHILD-bearing, quality of life, and mangroves all go together, according to a villager of the island-province of Guimaras, who used to play amid the swamp trees and yet cut them for a living.

"The spacing of mangroves is like the spacing of kids in family planning. You have to put some distance," said Welma Occeñola, 38, a barangay health worker of Sitio Baybay, Barangay Sabang in the coastal town of Sibunag.

The mangroves-family planning connection may sound strange but it is exactly Occeñola's and other community members' understanding of this relationship that has saved Sabang and its 1,471 people from what could have been a slow and destructive decline in their overall quality of life.

Residents love to share how their elders boasted of carrying a basket to the beach and simply dipping it into the water could yield fish. The trees and the livelihood that went with them were more than enough to sustain the people of Sabang, which has a land area of 726.52 hectares.

But times have changed.

"Our greatest problem then was illegal fishing. *Pagdamu sang tawo, kulang siguro ang kita* (When there were more people, earnings were not enough)," said Mila Alvarez, 49, the municipal secretary and chairperson of the Municipality of Sibunag Cooperative Association (Musica).

Alvarez saw how her community has changed. The trees, together with the fish, started to disappear. Many houses were constructed, mostly by young people who lived beside their parents' or relatives' homes. Food and money were scarce and there were more children than the school playground could hold.

Save the Children

Alvarez said they were not strangers to attempts by the government and nongovernment organizations to make life better.

Like Occeñola, she became enlightened that something can be done about her barangay's situation after attending a series of sessions regarding the importance of mangroves, family planning, education and other basic "life concerns."

Many such sessions followed until the once recalcitrant villagers that make up 218 households spread in four sitios finally agreed to go through the Appreciative Community Mobilization (ACM), initiated by the Save the Children Foundation (SCF). The international NGO chose Sabang as one of its special project areas for Population, Health and Environment (PHE) programs.

With the assistance of the SCF, which is one of the country's PHE forerunners—the women, fisherfolk, farmers and other residents of Sabang came up with the People and Environment Co-existence Development Project or Pescodev in 2000.

The name is particularly meaningful to the villagers because "pesco" in Spanish, means fish, and fishing is their main livelihood.

Together, the people "discovered, dreamt, designed and delivered" the ACM process that galvanized them to work on reversing the damage done to the community by using its available resources.

During their "discovery" sessions, Alvarez said they identified what was already existing: they had a village association and that only a few hectares of mangroves remained. Population was growing and resources were dwindling. Water was starting to be a problem, too, since there were few trees.

Alvarez recounted how they had to haul water from a reservoir near the school for P5 per 20 liters.

Simple dream

The residents' dream was simple. They wanted to improve their quality of life and lift their economic condition. To go about this, the SCF guided them through the "design" sessions where the community held discussions on the steps they should take to reach their dream.

This took the form of project proposals that they presented to the municipal government. Among the project highlights were the requests to put up fish sanctuaries and ban illegal fishing.

The "delivery" stage meant pushing for concrete action on the part of the community members and their partner agencies from both the government and private sectors.

Fish sanctuaries in Nauai, Ususan and Inampulugan islands were protected by the fishermen themselves, together with the Bantay Dagat. Trees were planted in the upland areas and more mangroves were added in Sitio Baybay.

"We focused on mangroves and fishing because that's where our life revolves," said Welma.

The SCF made it clear during the sessions it facilitated that population, health and environment were inextricably linked to each other and to address them as single entities would not have as great an impact as it would have if the PHE was integrated.

Thus, woven into the community's life since 2000 were activities, workshops and seminars on adolescent reproductive and sexual health, family planning sessions for couples, and "capacity-building" meetings for town and barangay officials.

Alvarez and Occeñola equated the "lifestyle change" in Sabang in this way: More mangroves meant more fish, fish meant good livelihood, livelihood meant food and other things besides. This, for the two women, was "improved quality of life."

The mangrove reforestation project that used to cover only four hectares is now close to seven hectares. It was awarded a Community-Based Forest Management Agreement by the government, with a total area of 9.6998 hectares..

Almost five years later, the fish have returned because of the mangroves.

More couples are also into family planning and have "spaced" their children. "Door-to-door" campaigns and consistent family planning sessions paid off, said Alvarez, mother of three.

Although the Pescodev project ended in 2004, Sabang wants to continue the new way of life introduced to it.

"All this is good. To sustain everything is up to us. In terms of finances, we get help from the barangay and the municipality of Sibunag. This project also falls under our five-year development plan," Alvarez said.

While women villagers look into the details of sustainability, 60-year-old Rosalina Camion simply went with the fishermen to Inampulugan Island to shake the branches of mangrove trees until the propagules fell. She picked them from the water and brought them to Baybay's mangrove reforestation site.

At low tide, Camion and her grandchildren planted the propagules and check on them once in a while because their low survival rates.

"Some are missing or dead because the crabs eat the buds or the strong waves carry off the propagules. The mangroves are up against the elements. It's we who make sure they live," Camion said in Hiligaynon.

More than 24 families have their assigned mangrove reforestation areas that were raffled off to them. At least one family member checks out the propagules, making sure they are alive and well.

In Sabang, the once-abused mangrove is the villagers' icon. In this place by the sea, understanding people's relationship with their environment has demonstrated that Mother Earth always returns their affections.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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Week 6	Aug 21-27	Aug 30	P20,000.00
Week 7	Aug 28-Sept 3	Sept 6	P20,000.00
Week 8	Sept 4-10	Sept 13	P20,000.00
Week 9	Sept 11-17	Sept 20	P20,000.00
Week 10	Sept 18-24	Sept 27	P20,000.00
Week 11	Sept 25-Oct 1	Oct 4	P20,000.00
Week 12	Oct 2-8	Oct 11	P20,000.00
Week 13	Oct 9-15	Oct 18	P20,000.00
Week 14	Oct 16-22	Oct 25	P20,000.00
Week 15	Oct 23-29	Nov 1	P20,000.00
Week 16	Oct 30-Nov 5	Nov 8	P20,000.00
Week 17	Nov 6-12	Nov 15	P20,000.00
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4227. Series of 2005.

Opposition rap sheet lists 100 offenses by GMA

From page A1

Another opposition lawmaker claimed that at least three of his colleagues had received phone calls from Palace officials to junk the impeachment complaint in exchange for huge sums of money.

"Santa Claus is coming to town," Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico said.

Escudero, the House minority leader—and called the pointman of the opposition in laying the groundwork for the impeachment case—said the 100 offenses would be more than enough to cover all six grounds laid down by the Constitution in impeaching a sitting President.

Magnitude of crimes

"But these are too many, so we will discard some. We can't use the petty (or small) offenses. But this figure only shows the magnitude of her crimes against the Filipino people," said Escudero in an interview.

The most explosive criminal acts would be the "cover-up" allegedly employed by Ms Arroyo and her officials to convince the people that her 2004 victory was credible.

He did not cite other offenses so as not to telegraph the opposition's legal strategy but "they basically deal with corruption, cheating and betrayal of public trust.

"This will be a common effort not only by the minority [in the House] but a portion of the Liberal Party, among others," said Escudero.

Suplico told the INQUIRER that the opposition's legal team could "supply" all six impeachment grounds: culpable violation of the Constitution, treason, bribery, graft and corruption, high crimes and betrayal of public trust.

But amid the looming impeachment process spawned by telephone conversations between Ms Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, opposition lawmakers were being pestered by some Malacañang officials who kept on calling them these past days to junk the impeachment complaint, said Suplico.

He said he and Agusan del Sur Rep. Rodolfo Plaza and San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora had received calls from Malacañang officials promising them pork barrel allocations in exchange for voting against the impeachment of President Arroyo.

"Three top officials called me up, saying 'if you vote no, we can talk about your projects,'" said Suplico.

Asked to name names, he said: "Our friends. You know who they are."

'Irresponsible, baseless'

Administration Representatives Marcelino Libanan and Monico Puentevella chided the opposition, saying the alleged plan to kill the impeachment complaint through bribery was an "irresponsible charge" that put the integrity of the House of Representatives in question.

Libanan, vice chair of the House committee on justice, said that such "baseless and careless statements were intended by the opposition to get sympathy and support for their cause in calling for the President's ouster at the cost of undermining the honor of each member of the Lower House of Congress."

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay also dismissed allegations that the administration was set to dole out pork barrel funds in exchange for voting down the impeachment of Ms Arroyo.

He also denied that administration officials like himself were calling their friends on the other side of the political fence.

"They are the ones sending feelers to us," Pichay claimed.

A vote by a third of the 236-man House, or 78 votes, would lead to the automatic transmittal of the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate. As of Thursday, between 75 and 80 lawmakers had voiced support for the impeachment complaint.

De Venecia's role

In Iloilo City, Speaker Jose de Venecia said he would exercise his constitutional duty to transmit the impeachment complaint to the House committee on justice within 10 session days after Congress resumes its session on July 25.

"I am determined to transmit the complaint to the committee of justice and the committee will decide whether the complaint is sufficient in form and substance," said De Venecia, an outspoken ally of President Arroyo.

He also said the complaint would go direct to the Senate if there were at least 79 congressmen as signatories to the complaint.

Legal team

Despite the "annoying" calls from the Palace, preparations were now under way, said Suplico, who yesterday met with the legal team tasked to study and "fortify" the Lozano complaint.

Besides the five "pro bono" private lawyers, Representatives Zamora, Jacinto Paras, Justin Chipeco, Sonny Angara, Teofisto Guingona III and Imee Marcos were present in the meeting to look at ways to collate pieces of evidence to back up the Lozano complaint.

Suplico said they were just in the organizational stage, having formally formed the legal team, and a secretariat to be headed by South Cotabato Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio.

Marcos said the team had already started receiving evidence and sorting out the documents that could be incorporated in Lozano's complaint, which is set to be amended two days before the regular session of Congress on July 25.

The team will hold its meetings in Escudero's office until a permanent office is set up in Makati City.

Toilet paper

Remulla, chair of the lead committee in the "Hello Garci" scandal, said it was important for the administration bloc to show that the process was credible.

"If they kill the Lozano complaint and they got every reason to kill it because it's nothing, then I think passions are only going to [rise] even further," said Remulla.

Remulla said the Lozano complaint was a mere scrap of paper if the opposition would not amend it.

"It's toilet paper if you [ask me]. We really have to look at it and study it but we haven't passed the [impeachment] rules yet," he said.

"The public won't understand what maneuvering is. As soon as they find out that the impeachment process is dead in the water, what alternative would the people have but go to the streets? Most of the people have already made up [their minds] one way or another, we know they'll be watching the impeachment complaint very, very closely [the way] they've been watching this 'Hello Garci' investigation."

Remulla admitted that his party, the Nacionalista Party, had yet to take a stand on the issue, but "we are going to stand by the processes in the Constitution."

Palace ploy

But Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday renewed his call to opposition congressmen to be cautious in supporting the impeachment complaint, saying it was a Malacañang ploy to keep President Macapagal-Arroyo in power.

"I hope they won't fall into the trap. It's nothing but a trap to prolong the stay of Gloria. It's meant to keep the genie of her misdeeds in the bottle of legality," he said in an interview.

Pimentel pointed out that the complaint filed by lawyer Oliver Lozano was part of a Malacañang plan to offer an easy way out for Ms Arroyo who continues to be besieged by calls for her resignation.

Loose cannon

"Lozano was a loose cannon during the Marcos years. He's still trying to cause problems to those who seek Gloria's ouster by going through the motions of impeachment," he said.

Pimentel maintained that the best option for the President and Vice President Noli de Castro was to step down since they both benefited from the alleged electoral fraud that attended last year's presidential elections.

No choice

While aware that this could be a trap, the minority bloc in the House of Representatives was left with no choice but to resort to it, opposition Rep. Allan Peter Cayetano said. *With a report from Nestor P. Burgos, PDI Visayas Bureau.*

Drilon told: Shut up

By Philip C. Tubeza

SHUT up.

A ranking administration lawmaker yesterday said that Senate President Franklin Drilon should stop commenting on the impeachment case against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, who's a member of the Liberal Party, also disputed Drilon's claim that all the Liberal Party's 34-member contingent in the House of Representatives would sign the impeachment complaint.

Pichay said Drilon should "shut up" since he would be one of the judges if the Articles of Impeachment is transmitted to the Senate. If not, then he should inhibit himself from hearing the case.

"I think he should shut up. How can he preside over an impeachment trial if he makes statements about it? He should inhibit himself and give the Senate a semblance of credibility," Pichay said.

The lawmaker was reacting to Drilon's statement that it would now be easier to impeach the President after the LP members in the House reportedly decided to support impeachment.

"Drilon should not be talking about impeachment in the House because he is not the Speaker. He is the Senate President. That is his job," Pichay said.

Like Pichay, Liberal Party Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. (Camarines Sur) said that not all his 34 party mates in Congress would support the impeachment complaint, adding that what they decided during their caucus on Wednesday was for each member "to cast his conscience vote."

Conscience vote

"*Yung 34 na pipirma sa impeachment, suntok sa buwan 'yon. Baka mabigla na lang kayo sa pinal na resulta* (That supposed 34 solid vote is a long shot. You might even be surprised by the outcome)," Andaya said.

"Even if you will read the July 8 statement issued by Senate President Drilon, what was stated there was that the party will support an impeachment process. Supporting the process is different from supporting the complaint," he added.

Disputing minority claims

Pichay said that even if some Liberal congressmen supported the complaint, the majority expected that the opposition would only garner 40 to 45 votes. He disputed claims by the minority that it had the required one-third of the House, or 78 votes, for the Articles of Impeachment to be automatically transmitted to the Senate.

"What they're trying to do is create an impression that support for the complaint is snowballing in the House," he said.

He also pointed out that a November 2003 Supreme Court decision said that the one-third vote requirement should be met before a complaint is filed, and not after, for the Articles of Impeachment to be transmitted automatically to the Senate.

Cool it, GMA . . .

From page A1

to tone down their attacks on the President's critics and former allies.

"Ermita said we—Defensor, Tiglao and me—should deal with questions etc. with less vehemence or something. Less passion. That was Secretary Ermita, not the President speaking," Gonzalez said.

Closed book?

Ermita gave the advice a few days after Gonzalez asked former President Corazon C. Aquino—who recently called for the resignation of Ms Arroyo—to mind the personal affairs of Ms Aquino's daughter Kris, instead of minding affairs of the state.

Kris Aquino, a popular TV talk show and game show host, had been romantically linked with actors and basketball players and had openly talked about undergoing medical procedures including treatment for a sexually transmitted disease and cosmetic surgery.

Gonzalez's comment, made during at least two separate press briefings, garnered criticism from all sectors, with some asking the President to kick the justice secretary out of office.

The criticisms drove Gonzalez to air his apology to Ms Aquino Thursday night.

Out

Yesterday, he said, as far as he was concerned, the issue was "already a closed book."

The issue, however, seemed to have fueled talks—spread through text messages—that Gonzalez was on his way out.

Learning this, Gonzalez replied: "That's up to Malacañang. I serve at the pleasure of the President."

Told that he could be the first Cabinet man booted out after Ms Arroyo asked her official family to submit their courtesy resignations last week, Gonzalez said he was leaving his fate up to the President.

Gonzalez said not even being an ardent and loyal defender of the President could make a difference. "Even if you are taking flak for the President, if she wants to knock you out, there's nothing you can do."

Reconciliation

Gonzalez had been roundly criticized for being an apologist and defender of the Palace, especially in the way he handled the "jueteng" and "Gloriagate" issues. He was chastised for warning people and the press that they could be charged with violating the Anti-Wire Tapping Law for possession and playing of the tapes.

Gonzalez said he would heed Ermita's advice, because the Palace might "want us to continue advancing the process of reconciliation, if it has a chance."

He added, however, that offering reconciliation might work against Ms Arroyo.

"The more the President offers reconciliation, the more they think she's weak," he said.

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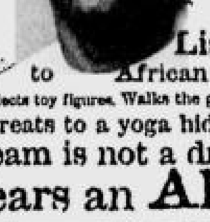

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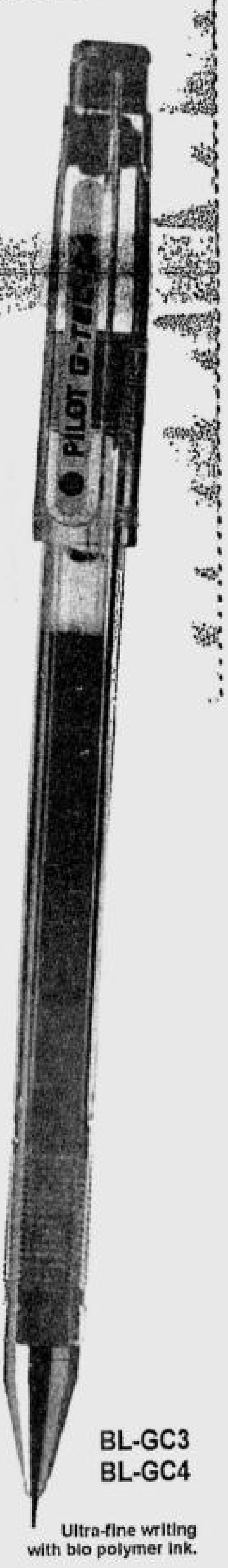

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FVR on slay plot: Go ahead, but spare GMA

By Nikko Dizon

FORMER President Fidel Ramos yesterday challenged whoever wanted to kill him to "go ahead" but asked them to spare President Macapagal-Arroyo and any government official, whether pro or against the administration.

Ramos denied taking part in any plot to unseat Ms Arroyo so he can become a transition leader.

The former Armed Forces general has been widely credited with saving Ms Arroyo from downfall last week by coming out in support of her and proposing a constitutional change as a solution to the country's political crisis.

RAMOS

"I am not a member, an author, or mastermind in all these shenannigans that [are] doing a great disservice to the common people who are already suffering," Ramos said at a press conference at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Centennial Terminal on his return from Thailand.

On a supposed assassination plot against him, Ramos said: "As far as my own person is concerned, go ahead and try but please do not do anything violent or injurious to the President of the Philippines or any other person in authority, whether pro or anti-administration because it's not the way to solve problems in this beloved democracy."

Ramos returned a day after Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson released copies of supposed wiretapped conversations between ousted President Joseph Estrada and a retired general allegedly dealing with a plot to unseat Ms Arroyo and assassinate a certain "Tanda," claimed in some quarters to be Ramos.

Ramos said he had only read in the papers that he was supposedly the "Tanda" alluded to in the wiretapped conversation.

Ramos said death threats were nothing new to him.

Best bodyguard

Nevertheless, he said he would still try to find out if this supposed assassination plot was true.

He said that he had not beefed up his security and added, in jest, that his "best security" remained to be his wife, former First Lady Amelita "Ming" Ramos.

Ramos reiterated that he did not want to be Prime Minister or a ceremonial president should there be a shift to a parliamentary system of government.

On whether the beleaguered Arroyo administration would survive, Ramos said: "As far survival is concerned, that is something that we must evaluate according to our institutions, assets and values that we have as the Filipino people, regardless of the personalities involved."

Ramos boys

He added: "No administration is ever over the hump because there are many problems that arise such as the oil prices, terrorism, etc."

Ramos also said that the appointment of so-called "Ramos boys" to the Arroyo Cabinet was based on their credentials and not because of their association with him.

SWS phone survey…

From page A1

moves to send her husband overseas and revamp her Cabinet as means to keep herself in power.

Forty-five percent of those polled believe that Vice President Noli de Castro is capable of running the country, 36 percent think he is incapable while 19 percent are undecided, SWS said in a statement released yesterday.

The polling outfit said it conducted the survey by telephone between July 12 and 14—or at the height of opposition-organized protests for Ms Arroyo to step down following allegations she was involved in vote fraud in last year's elections.

The survey covered a total sample of 608 residents with landlines and had a sampling error margin of 4 percent. The poll was not commissioned by any group, SWS said.

A telephone poll conducted July 2-8 by another pollster, Pulse Asia, showed that three in five of the respondents—or 58 percent—believed Ms Arroyo should resign.

In case of nonresignation by Ms Arroyo, almost all (91 percent) of those wanting her to resign and three-fourths (76 percent) of those saying she should not resign, favor her impeachment, according to SWS survey.

Truth Commission

Sixty-two percent of those aware of the controversy agree with the proposal for the government to set up an independent Truth Commission, described in the SWS poll as having powers to-investigate and call witnesses, similar to the powers of the Feliciano and Davide Commissions that investigated failed military coup attempts.

When asked if they see certain moves of Ms Arroyo as serious reforms for the country or only as means to stay in power, almost two-thirds of those aware of the controversy believe the moves are aimed to keep her in office, SWS said.

Only 26 percent call the "exile" of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo a serious reform, while 64 percent say it is only a means to stay in power.

Only 29 percent think the Cabinet revamp which Ms Arroyo recently ordered was a serious reform measure, while 66 percent called it only a means for her to stay in power.

SWS said only 31 percent saw switching to the parliamentary system as a serious reform move. Sixty-five percent see it also as a means to hang on to the presidency.

Garci tapes

Regarding the supposed wiretapped phone conversations between Ms Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, 61 percent of those aware of the controversy feel Ms Arroyo told the Comelec official to cheat.

Thirty-one percent believe she was only trying to protect her votes, as she said in her June 27 public apology.

The SWS survey showed that access to the contents of the controversial "Garci tapes" had grown very rapidly, with 45 percent of those aware of the controversy having personally listened to them, 17 percent having both listened and read the transcripts, and 6 percent having read transcripts.

SWS said it began its survey by asking all 608 respondents about trust in Ms Arroyo, and found only 19 percent with much trust in her, compared to 52 percent with little trust in her, implying a net trust rating of –33.

This is statistically similar to the 17 percent trust and 48 percent distrust—a net trust of –31—in an SWS on June 28-30, the polling agency said.

Noli's status

Of 45 percent who believe De Castro is capable of running the government, 14 percent say he is "Very Capable" and 31 percent "Somewhat Capable."

"This is not really different from the 48 percent capable in the SWS June 28-30 survey, but is a slight increase from the 29 percent Incapable, at that time," the agency said.

SWS said it set three days for interviewing, allocating calls in proportion to the population in the 17 cities and towns of Metro Manila.

"When a residential number is reached, the interviewer asks to speak to whoever among adults in the residence was the last to mark his/her birthday. Appointments for re-calls are made if the selected person is out but will be available later within the survey period," SWS said.

Who were polled

A team of 13 field staff conducted 608 interviews in Quezon City 133, Manila 96, Kalookan 73, Pasig 32, Makati 30, Valenzuela 29, Las Piñas 29, Taguig 28, Parañaque 27, Marikina 24, Muntinlupa 23, Malabon 21, Pasay 21, Mandaluyong 19, Navotas 14, San Juan 6 and Pateros 3.

The sample of 579 adults aware of the controversy had 10 percent who did not complete high school, 50 percent with at most a high school degree, and 40 percent with a college degree, SWS said.

Educational attainment

It said the feeling that GMA cheated was 59 percent among those who did not finish high school, 67 percent among those who finished only high school, and 54 percent among college graduates.

SWS said those saying Ms Arroyo should resign were 60 percent among non-high school graduates, 71 percent among those with only a high school degree, and 51 percent among college graduates.

Those favoring impeachment in case of non-resignation are 74 percent among non-HS graduates, 86 percent among those who at most finished high school, and 85 percent among college graduates.

The sample of 579 included 207 men and 372 women.

'Tape ploy to save GMA'

From page A1

tinction between his conversations with Nazareno, and the supposed Arroyo-Garcillano phone talk.

"And I committed nothing illegal when I called [Nazareno]," he said.

To prove he had nothing to hide, Estrada also dared the administration and its supporters to authenticate the tape—and said his wife and son would resign their Senate seats if the recordings were genuine.

If the tape is fake, then Ms Arroyo should heed demands for her to step down, Estrada, who is detained in his rest house in Tanay, Rizal, on charges of economic plunder, told the Inquirer.

While admitting he talked with Nazareno, Estrada took exception to the last part of the recordings wherein he and the retired general supposedly discussed an alleged plot to remove "Pandak"—presumed to be Ms Arroyo—and immobilize a certain "Tanda," purportedly ex-President Fidel Ramos or maverick former defense chief Gen. Fortunato Abat.

"If that part of the tape is true, Senadora and Jinggoy will resign," Estrada said, referring to his wife, Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito Estrada, and their son, who is also a senator.

Nothing illegal

"But if that part of the tape is fake, President Arroyo and Chavit must both resign," he said in a statement relayed to the Inquirer by his spokesperson, former Rep. Didagen Dilangalen.

On the tape, a man was heard talking supposedly to Estrada: *"Ganun nga sir. Pag napatalsik na si Pandak at may transition government na, magkakasakit na si Tanda. Puwede na nating ipitin seguro ang kaliwa, sir. So tuloy na plano, sir. Puwede na i-sacrifice si Tanda. Total tapos na sya, sir,"* said a man who was purportedly talking with Estrada.

Estrada admitted he talked with Nazareno but they discussed nothing illegal.

Tape spliced

"My words like 'OK,' 'yes,' in my conversations with Nazareno were spliced with the excerpts of the person talking of the assassination and Tanda. That's a lot of bull," Estrada said.

Senator Ejercito herself said she and her son would quit the Senate if the tape were genuine.

"My son and I will resign if what they were talking about on the last portion is true," Ejercito said.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson had also said he would resign if the tape portion mentioning his name could be authenticated.

Charges mulled

Estrada said he called Nazareno during the vote counting when he learned that his friend and opposition standard-bearer, the late actor Fernando Poe Jr., and Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino candidates, particularly his son Jinggoy, were being cheated in Mindanao.

"From No. 9, Jinggoy fell to No. 13," Estrada said. "I sent him [Nazareno] to the area because he was a former Southcom (Southern Command) chief. He knows the area."

Estrada said Nazareno was not part of the KNP campaign and poll watching teams but was his "man-Friday," whom he could trust.

Estrada said he would consider filing wiretapping charges and encourage Nazareno to do the same against Singson once the so-called "X-tape"—as the recordings which Singson released were labeled—had been circulated among the general public.

Ejercito said it was true her husband talked not only to Nazareno but to lawyer Rufus Rodriguez "to protect Jinggoy's votes."

She said the former President did not even know who the other man he was supposedly talking to on the tape.

She said the tape Singson produced was a "cheap shot."

Diversionary tactic

"He's [Singson] trying to keep the heat off Gloria, who is being asked to resign. Because if Gloria resigns, he'll lose all his political clout," she said.

Jinggoy said: "We're not capable of doing that. Since he entered politics—from mayor to President—my father has no track record of killing anybody, unlike the one who brought out the tape who is a suspect in killings in Ilocos Sur."

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the Singson ploy was a "poorly scripted effort to divert attention away from Gloria's misdeeds."

"This is a depraved manner of removing the burden of Gloria having to explain her attempt to manipulate the elections and other scandals snapping at her heels, like jueteng," Pimentel said.

'Concocted'

"And coming from Chavit, that should be taken with a thousand sacks of salt."

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said it was obvious, even to an ordinary listener, that the wiretapped conversation between Estrada and the man on the other line was "concocted."

"This is a low comedy," Estrada's lawyer, Rene Saguisag, said.

But administration lawmakers sought a full-blown congressional inquiry into the tape.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles and Antique Rep. Exequiel Javier said the investigation should determine the veracity of the attempt to unseat Ms Arroyo and the culpability of Estrada.

"An investigation is now in order because, if this is true, they are talking about assassinating the highest official of the land. It's a national security threat," said Nograles.

Enter the NBI

A check with the transcript of the audio recording, however, made no clear mention of any plot to kill Ms Arroyo.

Nograles said the contents of the 'X-tape' were the missing portions in the three-hour audio CD recordings supplied by former Estrada's lawyer, Alan Paguia, to the Lower House.

The Paguia tape was a recording of the supposed GMA-Garci conversation.

Javier said Estrada should give a full explanation of his conversations on the tape.

"Mukhang na-karma siya," Javier said.

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) said it would request Singson to hand over a copy of the tape for examination.

"We will conduct initial technical analysis of the tape and also look for the original copy," said NBI Assistant Director Nestor Mantaring. "Who knows, the 'Erap CD' was also spliced, so we have to check first." *With reports from Leila B. Salaverria and Tina Santos*

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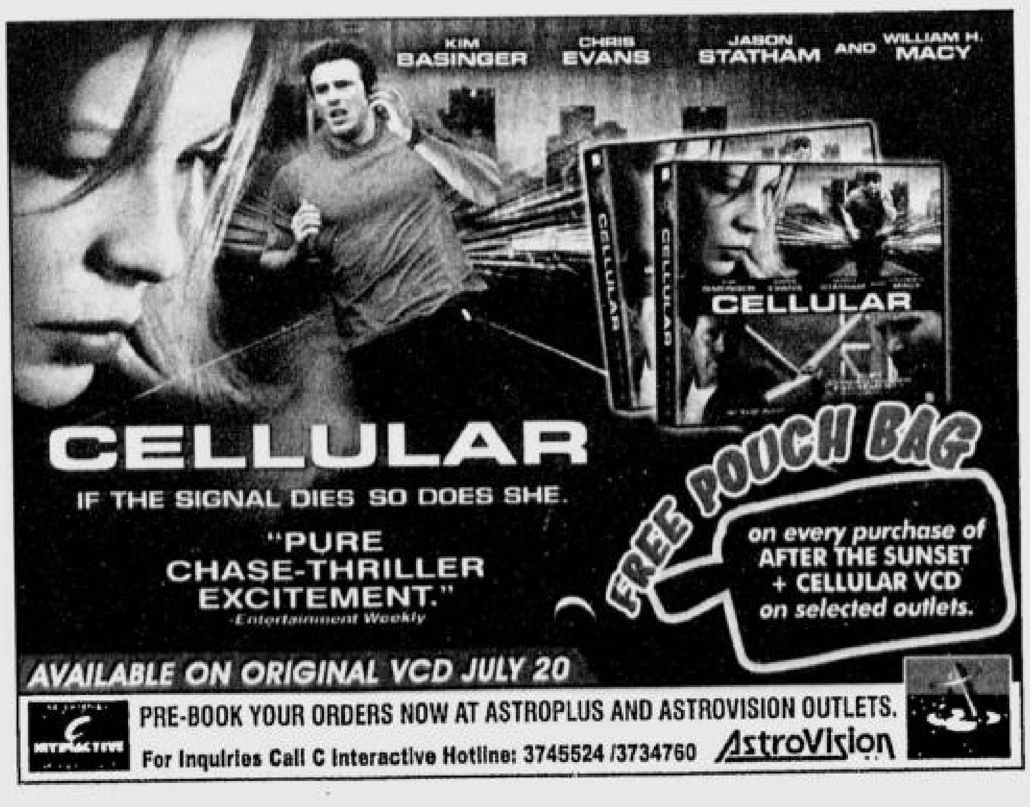
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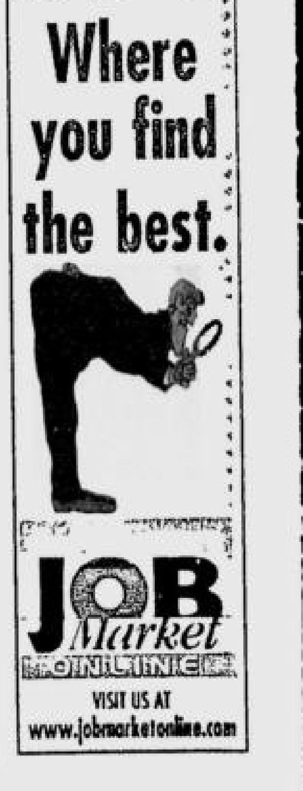


Gloria to stay away from major rally at Rizal Park today

SUPPORTERS of President Macapagal-Arroyo laid plans yesterday to strike back at the opposition with a massive weekend rally that they hope will dwarf a recent "people power" attempt calling for her resignation over vote-rigging allegations.

Pulling off a huge turnout could be crucial for Ms Arroyo, who for the past six weeks has been trying to survive her worst political crisis. Protests have been powerful tools in ousting Philippine presidents, and Arroyo needs to mobilize her own backers to show that a big chunk of the populace wants her to keep her job.

But Presidential Management Staff chief Rigoberto Tiglao said that there was no plan for the President to attend the rally organized by local government units.

"It's purely the initiative of mayors, congressmen and other elected officials of Metro Manila, irrespective of political affiliation," added Ms Arroyo's political adviser Gabriel Claudio in a text message to the INQUIRER.

Claudio said that organizers of the rally were holding the exercise "not so much in defense of the administration as it is the people's advocacy for peace, unity and rule of the law."

Organizers say they aim to draw 200,000 people—five times more than the 40,000 who joined Wednesday's anti-Arroyo demonstration in Makati City.

Saturday's event will be in spacious Rizal Park—where the late Pope John Paul II celebrated Mass in 1995.

Organizers include religious groups and local government leaders. They might be able to easily attract tens of thousands of people, including government workers who can be required to attend rallies.

"The weekend rally will be attended by peace-loving citizens who wish to see that constitutional processes are followed in resolving the raging political conflict diving the country, rather than resorting to extra-constitutional schemes that would lead to bigger problems," Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, an Arroyo ally, said in a statement.

The President's crisis erupted last month when wiretapped phone conversations had her talking to an election official before all the votes were counted in the May 2004 presidential election. She has denied manipulating the ballot count.

She has steadfastly resisted the opposition's calls to resign, despite the mass resignation a week ago of 10 Cabinet members. But Ms Arroyo has said she would be willing to face an impeachment trial, and the opposition suggested it was considering the option.

The former Cabinet members kept up the pressure on the president to step down. "We now have a beleaguered president—a president who has irretrievably lost her ability to govern effectively," said Teresita Deles, who was in charge of the peace process.

"In an environment where political expediency of staying in power is preeminent, the president is finding less and less time to focus on necessary governance and reform. The government's priorities are pushed aside to give way to the demands of day-to-day survival," she said.

Appealing to Arroyo to resign, Deles said: "Let go of the presidency now before greater damage is done to our country and our people."

On Thursday, Ms Arroyo, the daughter of a former president, warned against any "unrest in the streets" and pledged to "stop any violence that threatens the rule of law."

She said her detractors offered "a road that leads to nowhere."

National Capital Regional Police Office (NCRPO) Director Vidal Querol said doctors, rescuers and ambulances and the NCRPO's crowd disturbance management team would be on standby during the rally today. At least 500 antiriot policemen would be deployed to maintain peace and order at Rizal Park.

Querol also dismissed insinuations that the police tried to discourage anti-Arroyo protesters from attending the Makati rally by using intelligence reports that the New People's Army and the Abu Sayyaf Group would attack.

Although the NCRPO remained on normal alert status, Querol said they were also on guard against possible infiltrators who could blend with the crowd. *AP, Christine O. Avendaño and Jocelyn R. Uy*

Yellow lane still in place

By Tarra V. Quismundo

DRIVING along Edsa? Just remember: Buses should keep to their right, and private vehicles to their left.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) had this reminder for public and private motorists, in the face of reports of frequent violations of the yellow lane scheme on Edsa.

"There is a law that lays that rule down. When a vehicle swerves into another lane, that could cause traffic because the vehicle behind it would slow down," said MMDA Traffic Operations Center Executive Director Angelito Vergel de Dios.

With the agency's aim of speeding up travel time on Edsa, the five-lane avenue was divided for the use of public and private vehicles. The inner lanes were designated for private vehicles. The two outer lanes were then reserved as bus lanes or yellow lanes, for passenger buses which picked up and dropped off passengers on the sidewalk.

The yellow lane scheme was further augmented by the installation of pink fences between the private vehicle lane and the bus lane, to block the passage of swerving vehicles.

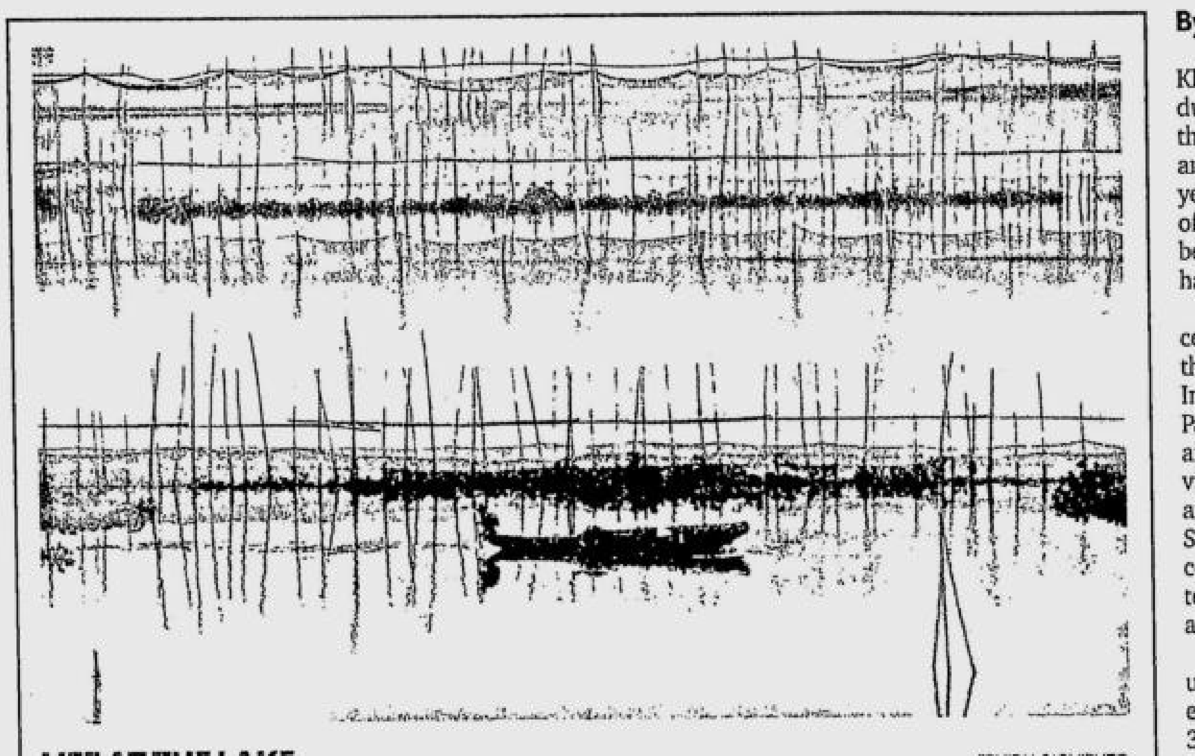
Portions of Edsa had already been fenced, with entry and exit slots for light vehicles, while others remained open.

Since the beginning of the year, the agency had listed a total of 1,359 violations of the yellow lane ordinance. The number of offenses had been on a downtrend since March, when the MMDA began putting up pink fences on the southbound and northbound portions of Edsa.

From a high of 701 offenses in January, the violations almost flat-lined at seven in February through strict implementation.

The agency recorded 403 offenses in March, a figure that almost halved in April, when 230 violations were reported. Eight violations were recorded in May, while 10 offenders were cited last month.

4 firms closed for waste water



LIFE AT THE LAKE

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

A fisherman mends the net of a fishpen in Laguna Lake near the shore of Taguig City. The lake, which has been described as the "septic tank" of Metro Manila, has been declared polluted.

By Blanche S. Rivera

KICKING off its crackdown on industrial polluters in Metro Manila, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) yesterday stopped the operations of four big firms in Valenzuela City believed to be engaged in activities hazardous to the environment.

Environment officials served cease-and-desist orders (CDOs) to the operators of Pinnacle Foods Inc., Suncrest Foods Inc., Contract Packaging Corp. of the Philippines and A.O. Knitting Mfg. Co. Inc. for violation of the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act. Pinnacle and Suncrest are food manufacturing companies while A.O. Knitting is a textile dyeing firm. Contract Packaging is a repacking company.

"This is part of the DENR's saturation drive in key industrial areas of Metro Manila and Regions 3 and 4-A," Environmental Management Bureau director Lollibeth Medrano said.

The DENR is particularly eyeing erring firms in Valenzuela, Navotas, Malabon, Pasig, Bulacan and Cavite.

Environment Secretary Michael T. Defensor had ordered the monitoring and revival of Meycauayan River in Bulacan, a favorite dump for industrial wastes from firms in Valenzuela town and neighboring provinces.

There are 390 factories in Valenzuela alone. Of this number, 108 are located near the Meycauayan River and 43 are close to Tullahan River.

Residents on Hulo Street had long complained of waste water allegedly from Pinnacle and Suncrest, both located on Hulo outside their compound.

Both factories had failed to comply with DENR standards regarding waste water, and had no permit to operate air-polluting equipment, Medrano said.

She added that the DENR had not ordered the shutdown right away because of last-ditch negotiations initiated by firm managers yesterday.

The four factories were given 90 days to implement environmental safeguards and remedial measures before part of their operations were halted, she said.

But Mariter Menia, Valenzuela City press officer, said the factories were ordered closed not for pollution but for nonrenewal of their permits for water discharge.

The DENR had conducted water sampling and had issued a notice of violation or noncompliance to the factory managers before they were served the CDO.

Apart from the closure order, the firms face fines ranging from P10,000 to P200,000 per day of operation from June 3, when a sampling of the factories' effluents was conducted. *With Nancy C. Carvajal*

'Pajero Lady' escorts charged

By DJ Yap

MORE than a month after the so-called "Pajero Lady" escaped in Quezon City, the jail guards who were escorting her were charged with evasion through negligence.

The Correctional Institute for Women (CIW) filed a criminal complaint against prison guards Benedicto Ortega and Alan Listana, who were assigned to guard Ma. Lourdes de Guzman at St. Luke's Hospital, where she underwent an operation.

De Guzman, who achieved notoriety for going around subdivisions in a luxury van to steal, escaped from her guards on June 13 at the hospital cafeteria.

In the complaint before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office, CIW head Rachel Ruelo said the escape was "shrouded in doubt" as Ortega and Listana had given conflicting reports about the escape.

At first, the duo told police that three armed men assisted De Guzman during the escape.

Later, they said she escaped after she went to look at a magazine at a stand in the cafeteria. Minutes later, the convict was nowhere to be found.

Surveillance camera recordings appeared to support the latter version of the story.

They showed De Guzman walking hurriedly out of the cafeteria, and the two appearing to be searching for her minutes later.

Ruelo noted that the escape could have been prevented, had the guards insisted that De Guzman wear a hospital gown instead of plain clothes.

Or, they could have asked for room service rather than allowing her to go to the cafeteria.

Ruelo said the two would also face administrative charges of gross neglect of duty.

Ortega and Listana are currently serving a suspension resulting from the escape.

Meanwhile, a Quezon City prosecutor released a man accused of raping a 17-year-old girl after the fiscal saw a video recording that showed the complainant "on top" of the man during the alleged sexual assault.

"As viewed in the video, there is no force or intimidation due to the fact that the woman was on top of the man," said inquest prosecutor Alessandro Jurado, who recommended the case for further investigation.

According to the charge sheet, the complainant applied for a job with the man, who allegedly ran a sex service operation by phone.

The man supposedly told the girl that she would be given the job only if she had sex with him, she said. The man then recorded their sex act using his Nokia 6630.

On July 12, the girl sought the help of the National Bureau of Investigation and filed a rape complaint.

The suspect was arrested at the Daungan KTV Bar in Quezon City.

During inquest, the suspect showed the video recording to the prosecutor.

In an interview, the prosecutor also noted that the NBI did not submit a birth certificate attesting to the girl's age.

Brief shower floods Metro, downs lines

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

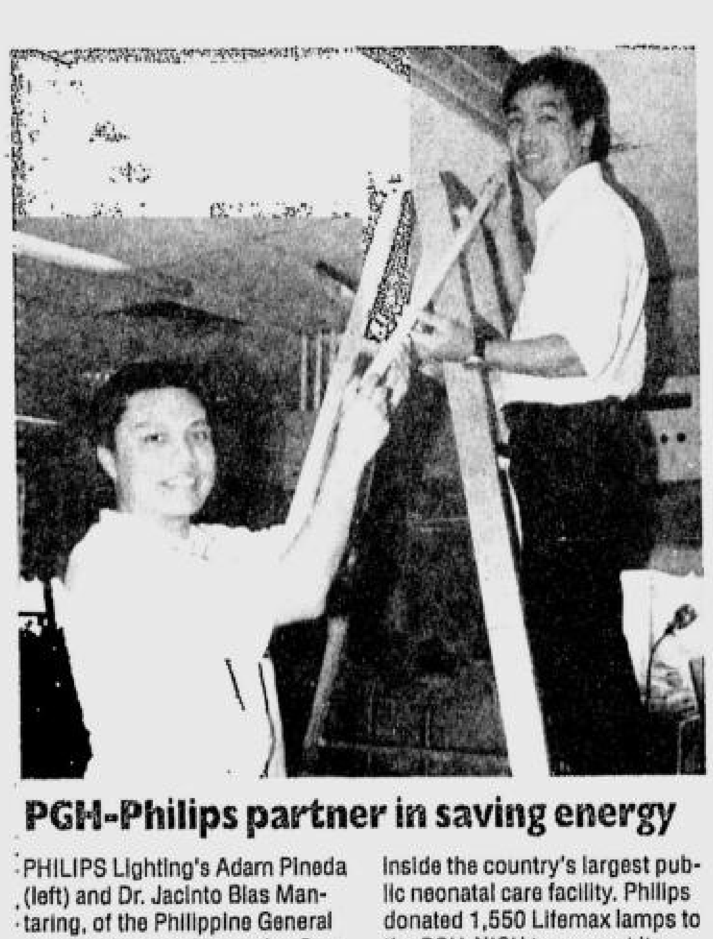
A BRIEF—but heavy—downpour in some parts of Metro Manila yesterday flooded key streets in Mandaluyong City and downed a transformer in the municipality of San Juan.

The rain began to pour at around 1:30 p.m. yesterday as a typhoon was reported to be on its way to Northern Luzon, catching many people on the streets by surprise since the day started out sunny.

The water quickly rose at the flood-prone Maysilo loop or rotunda encircling the Mandaluyong City Hall. Phone lines and even television cable transmissions were cut in many offices.

The city government had earlier announced a plan to convert the usually busy rotunda into a "discipline zone" by turning it into a four-lane road. The experimental program would be implemented later this month.

The San Juan public information office said that electricity was restored in some areas later in the afternoon.



PGH-Philips partner in saving energy

PHILIPS Lighting's Adam Pineda (left) and Dr. Jacinto Blas Mantaring, of the Philippine General Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, install Lifemax, the new energy-efficient fluorescent lamp, inside the country's largest public neonatal care facility. Philips donated 1,550 Lifemax lamps to the PGH-NICU to support its lighting needs.

Choosing the lesser evil

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

I HAVE it on good authority that in areas where "jueteng" has stopped because of the current Senate investigation, the drug problem has reared its ugly head.

During the time of then Interior Secretary Robert Barbers, jueteng was stopped in all areas where the illegal numbers game was prevalent. As a consequence, the drug problem worsened in those areas.

Why? Because the bet collectors and *cabos* (head collectors), deprived of their livelihood, had to resort to pushing drugs.

So which would the authorities rather have: stop jueteng and worsen the drug problem, or let jueteng continue in order to lessen the drug problem?

It's a matter of which is the lesser evil.

* * *

Don't get me wrong. I'm not advocating the illegal numbers game. I don't bet on jueteng, buy sweepstakes or lotto tickets, or take part in any kind of gambling.

I'm saying that there's a "win-win" situation to the jueteng problem—by legalizing it.

Don't believe priests and bishops who say that jueteng is evil because it's gambling, and gambling destroys the moral fiber of the small people.

If that's their argument, let's also ban cockfights, horse-racing, sweepstakes, lotto and the casinos. They are all games of chance and, therefore, could destroy the moral fiber of the nation. But do they?

Filipinos are gamblers by nature. Don't we always say, when we want to stress a point in our favor during a controversy, "*Pustahan tayo* (Let's make a bet)"?

Even some Catholic parishes encourage gambling by holding bingo socials and raffles. Priests who say bingo and raffles are not forms of gambling are hypocrites.

* * *

The problem with jueteng is not in its being evil, but in its being illegal.

If a law were to be passed tomorrow making jueteng legal, it would be placed in the same category as lotto, sweepstakes and horse-racing which are legal.

* * *

Pulse Asia, in its latest survey, said that 72 percent of Metro Manila residents distrust President Macapagal-Arroyo and would want her to resign.

The motive for the survey is suspect. Firstly, Metro Manila has always been an opposition bailiwick. All administrations lose in Manila, which goes the other way during elections.

Secondly, Metro Manila is not representative of the entire country.

Are the comments of Metro Manilans more important than, say, those of the people of Davao City or Cebu City?

Giving more importance to what Metro Manilans have to say on issues of national significance has alienated Filipinos in other parts of the archipelago.

The Christian-led new Mindanao independence movement is gaining ground precisely because most people on the second biggest island perceive that Metro Manilans impose their will on their Mindanao cousins.

"Why should Manilans plot our destiny for us when we both eat rice?" was how a Mindanaon would put it. The exact words are "*pareho lang kita gakaon ug bugas.*"

That man's sentiment is shared by most of his fellow Mindanaons—Christians, Muslims and lumads.

Mindanaons and many people in the Visayas think it was presumptuous of Metro Manilans to tell their countrymen in the provinces that the national leadership had changed as a result of Edsa I and Edsa II. The Mindanaons and the Visayans did not take part in those exercises.

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Caloocan City exec escapes ambush

Victim fights back, kills gunman

By Nancy C. Carvajal

AN OFFICIAL of the Caloocan City government survived an ambush and even managed to kill one of his alleged assailants shortly before noon yesterday, the police said.

Alfonso Sta. Maria, head of the Caloocan City Department of Public Safety and Traffic Management (DPSTM) as well as the Environmental Sanitation Services (ESS), escaped unhurt with two companions.

However, a tricycle driver was wounded when he was hit by a stray bullet.

Sta. Maria told reporters that he and his companions were on their way to the ESS office at about 11:30 a.m. when four men on two motorcycles shot them along Biglang Awa Street.

100 meters from office

He said they were about 100 meters away from the ESS office when the four men appeared behind his Nissan X-trail.

One tandem drove ahead of them and tried to block their path as the other opened fire, hitting the sport utility vehicle's back window.

Sta. Maria said he maneuvered his vehicle and bumped one of the motorcycles, throwing two of the attackers to the ground.

The two attackers ran away but Sta. Maria got out of his vehicle and opened fire at them, hitting one of the gunmen in the back of the head and killing him on the spot.

The three other assailants fled.

In the exchange of fire, a bullet hit a tricycle driver who was eating lunch nearby.

Sta. Maria said he told his companions to take the gun of the fallen gunman to make sure that he would not be able to fire again.

Shooting practice pays off

"My shooting practice paid off, but I'm still bewildered by the events," the official said.

He added that he could have been the one who wounded the bystander.

"My staff brought the wounded man to the hospital and he is okay," Sta. Maria said.

He related that before proceeding to his office, he went to a bank in the area to drop off some papers.

"I came from a bank but I did not have a big amount of money with me," Sta. Maria said.

Police said the dead gunman was wearing a bull cap, denims, a gray polo shirt and brown rubber shoes, and was not carrying any identification cards.

Found on him was a cell phone, an undetermined amount of cash in different denominations, and a broken pair of sunglasses.

City police chief Supt. Leo Garra said they were still looking into possible motives of the attackers.

Possible motives

"It could be professional, political or a robbery attempt since today is payday," Garra said.

As DPSTM head, Sta. Maria's main job is to enforce peace and order with the local police and to ensure the smooth flow of traffic in the city.

A person close to Sta. Maria said Mayor Enrico Echiverri also trusted the DPSTM head in handling local government programs, such as contracts on garbage collection and some infrastructure projects.

For his part, Sta. Maria said he could not think of a reason why anyone would want to harm him.

"I have not received a single threat on my life. My job is to assure residents that they are safe," he said.

He pointed out that he would act on requests or complaints of residents no matter how trivial these were.

According to an intelligence officer, the DPSTM chief could have been a victim of the "Enduro Gang," a robbery group operating in the area.

The officer said it appeared that the gunmen could have followed Sta. Maria from the bank, not knowing who he really was.

He added that robberies were rampant in the area, usually victimizing Filipino-Chinese businessmen who do not report such incidents to the police.

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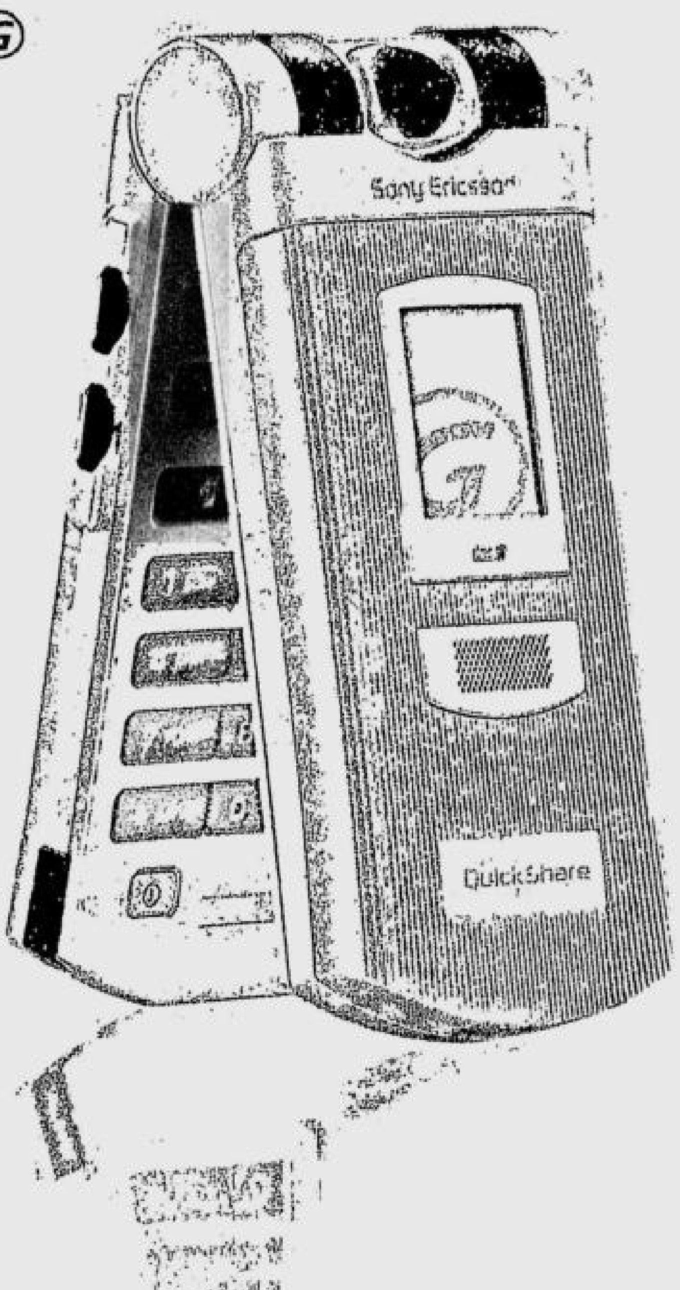

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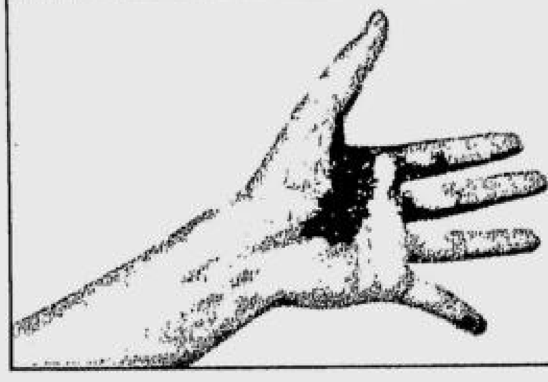

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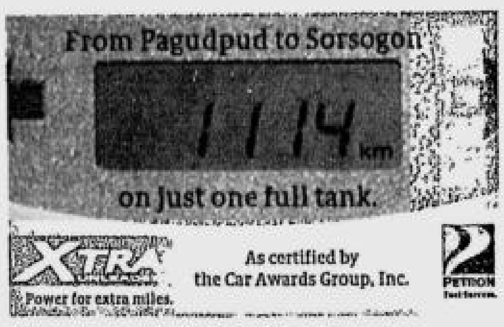
GOLF: 2005 Open Championship Second Round; 12 noon (r); First and Second Round Highlights; 4 p.m.; Third Round; 5 p.m.; ESPN—The third round goes under way.

BASEBALL: MLB; 8 a.m.; ESPN—Check out the featured game of the day.

CYCLING: Tour de France, Stage 13; 4 p.m.; ESPN—Can Lance Armstrong win his seventh title?

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.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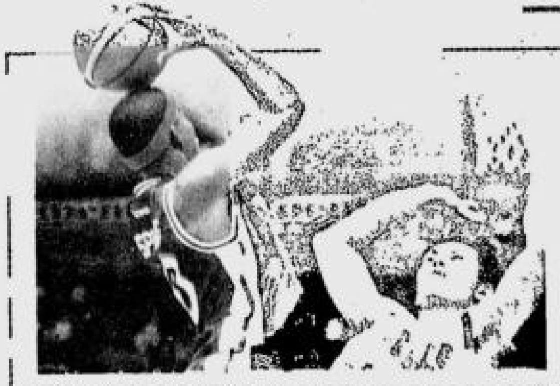
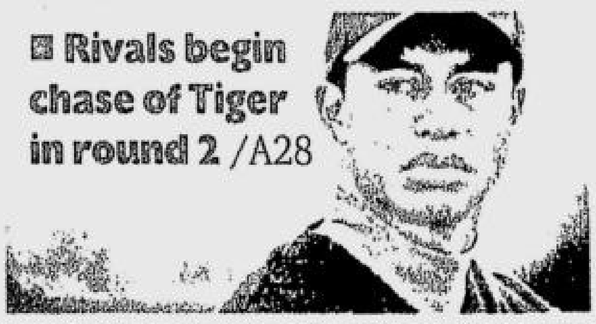


Dolphins, Knights share top /A23

Pyrenees beckon Lance /A24

Rivals begin chase of Tiger in round 2 /A28



Superal superb in Junior World

By Jong Arcano

SAN DIEGO—They called him Superman and Wolen Superal acknowledged by sending the Philippine flag fluttering proudly on Thursday with a whopping victory in the boys' 11-12 years division of the Callaway Junior World Championships here.

Maybe it was the distinct sound of his family name, or they wanted to pay tribute to how he bludgeoned the course to submission that made Superal enjoy special attention as he strode home to an unchallenged title win.

The peppery 12-year-old capped one of the most scintillating performances in the event's history with his third straight subpar round, a four-under-par 70 and a staggering 21-under-par 201 aggregate at the Cottonwood Golf Club in El Cajon that finally won him a Junior World title in wire-to-wire fashion.

It was a super comeback from a heartbreaking final-round meltdown that denied him the 9-10 division plum as Superal made sure nobody could come close to threaten him on the last 18 holes which he opened with a couple of birdies.

Anton Arboleda, son of Filipino doctors who have just migrated to Los Angeles, completed a 1-2 finish for the Philippines in the boys' 11-12 as he shared second at 207 with Nond Muang of Thailand after firing the day's best score of 68.

Abby Arevalo was the next highest finisher for the RP contingent, sponsored by Philippine Airlines and Samsung, placing second in the girls' 6-under.

On his way to the awards ceremony, Superal was greeted by shouts of "congratulations, Superman!" and "great game, Superman!" by competitors and the popular kid acknowledged with a smile.

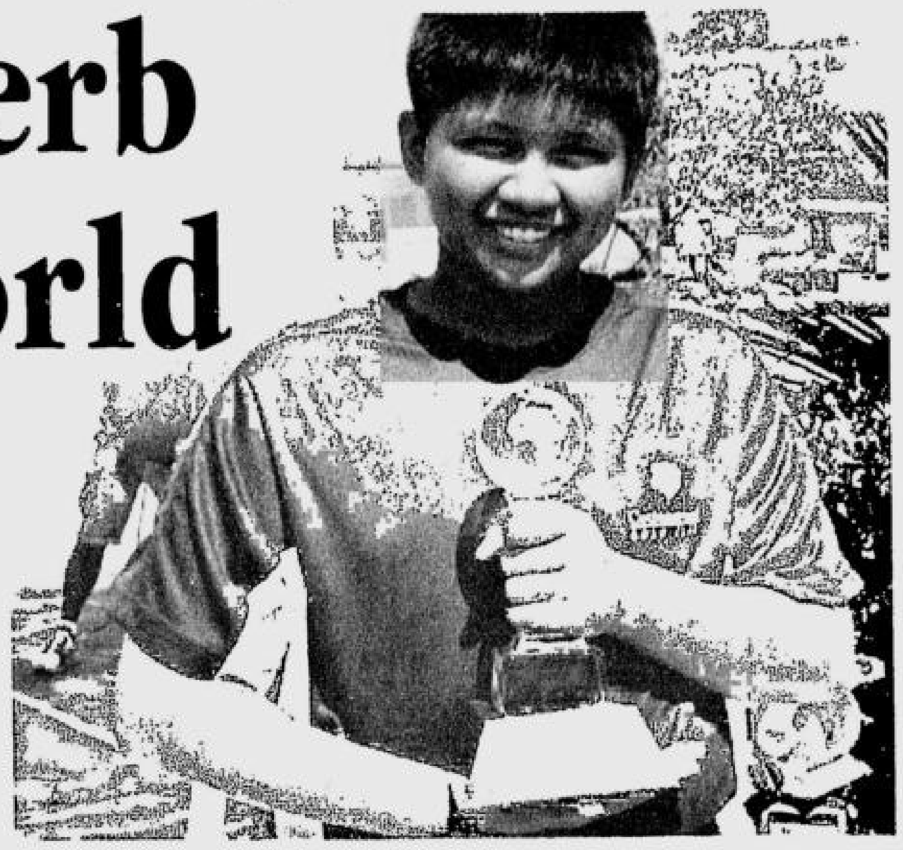
He gave the Philippines its 17th title here and was acclaimed for the record 10-under 64 he established in the first round despite playing in pain caused by a dislocated hip.

He has been scheduled for surgery that will keep him away from the course for at least four months.

"I offer this win to my parents for always being there when I needed them," said Superal, who also credited his solid form to months of training at his home course, the Orchard Golf and Country Club in Cavite.

Dottie Ardina failed in her bid for the girls' 11-12 plum, placing level fifth in a round of 78 marred by double bogeys on the last two holes.

Wolen's younger sister, Princess, was also a trophy winner, finishing fifth in the girls' 7-8 years.



WOLEN Superal: Big victory after 2003 failure

In the other divisions, Andie Unson settled for a share of fifth in girls' 9-10 and Debbie de Villa wound up a fighting sixth in the girls' 13-14, sinking a birdie on the last hole for a 74-223, and Miggy Yee checked in seventh in the boys 7-8.

Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines chair Amalia Montecillo and president Raoul Lachica, who headed the delegation here, said that the continued success of jungolfers in tournaments abroad is a sign of a very healthy development program.

"We intend to make it even stronger with the support of the private sector," they said.

Tonton Asistio, Michael Manotoc and Mico Yee were to wind up the Philippine campaign in the weather-bugged 15-17 years play Friday.

The Philippine entries:

Class B: J. Abdon (70-223-T19); D. de Villa (74-223-T6), M. Piccio (78-228-T15), C. Superal (72-225-T9), R. de Guzman (77-234-T27), C. Rodriguez (77-234-T27)

Class C: W. Superal (70-201-1st), M. Puyat (74-215-11th); D. Ardina (78-220-T5), M. Legaspi (77-227-17th) Class D: M. Tabuena (65-200-T15), B. dela Paz (72-201-T19), LJ Go (77-216-T34); A. Unson (64-199-T5), I. Gabasa (64-204-T11)

Class E: M. Yee (60-184-T7), AR Ramos (61-185-T10), M. Arevalo (63-189-T16); P. Superal (66-189-5th) Class F: R. Monsalve (63-208-21st), Z. Nieves (76-233-T35), M. Robles (81-236-38th); A. Arevalo (63-184-2nd), LK Go (64-189-3rd), C. Legaspi (63-193-4th), J. Buen (65-236-5th)

Sultan faces Japanese for OPBF crown

By Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

RP WELTERWEIGHT boxing champion Dondon "Supremo" Sultan yesterday vowed to take home the Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation (OPBF) title, saying this will be his ticket to fame and fortune.

"It's going to be now or never. The better man wins," the 26-year-old Sultan said in local dialect during a lull in training at the famed ALA Gym, where he has been working against top sparmates.

He goes for the Orient crown against reigning titlist Kazuhiko Hidaka of Japan on July 21 in Tokyo.

Sultan, a native of Labason, Zamboanga del Norte, flies out of Cebu to Narita International Airport on Tuesday accompanied by manager Sammy Gello-ani and trainer Edmund Villamor. The official weigh-in is set the following day at the Japan Boxing Commission office, near the Korakuen Hall, venue of the 12-round battle.

Sultan has sparred against OPBF super-featherweight king Randy Suico, WBF junior welter champ Dindo Castanares, and RP junior welter boss Bart Abapo.

"He's in tremendous shape. We are confident of our chances," said Villamor.

It will be a tough test for Sultan.

Hidaka (21-4, 15 KO's), a 26-year-old southpaw, annexed the title with an upset victory over Filipino Rev Santillan last March 19. He has been on a six-bout winning spree since moving down from light middleweight to campaign in the 147-lb class.

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IBF intends to propel badminton even faster

KENNIEVIC Asuncion celebrates after he and sister Kennie took the first set of their mix doubles match against Team Europe. ROMY HOMILLADA

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE WORLD'S fastest racket sport is about to get even faster.

Concurrent president of the International Badminton Federation and the Asian Badminton Confederation Dr. Kang Young Joong announced the coming changes in the rules of the sport in a bid to make it more exciting than ever.

Speaking in a press conference held after the MVP Cup Asia vs Europe badminton championships won by Team Asia Thursday night, Joong said they are inclined to adopt the rally-point system that did wonders in quickening the pace of volleyball games several years ago.

Joong appeared in the conference along with Philippine Badminton Association executive vice president Edgardo Aglipay, incoming ABC chief and Jakarta Governor Sutiyoso, Team Asia manager Datuk Punch Gunalan and Team Europe manager Martijn van Dooremalen.

They said countries have already been tasked to make experiments of the new rules that would take out the side-outs and raise the scoring to 21 points per set. They estimate that the change would reduce the length of a match by 40 percent to 50 percent as well as improve the quality of the game.

"Television audience complained of the long games especially when games reach three sets," said Gunalan, who added that it could also lessen chances of injuries to the players. "It could extend to more than two hours."

The IBF-member nations have until December to make recommendations before the new rule is fully implemented, according to Gunalan.

They are also likely to eliminate the second line inside the square and allow only one serve for each side during doubles matches, according to Joong.

Sutiyoso, who is set to take over the ABC reins on July 17, announced that Olympic entries in the Beijing Games will be increased from 31 to 50 slots.

Through him, Indonesia pledged support to the development of badminton in the Philippines by sending world-class coaches.

"I am surprised at the enthusiasm showed by the Filipino people, it was evident that your country is not far from winning the world championship in the future," said Sutiyoso. "We will help each other to achieve your goal."

Heavyweight ghost haunts PBA cager

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

ALTHOUGH he left for San Francisco, California, two days before, I half expected Sta. Lucia governor and team manager Buddy Encarnado to materialize in last Thursday's PBA board meeting at the PBA office in Pasig.

Early Thursday morning, I got a call from a colleague who said that Buddy was rushing back to Manila from Sanfo to look into a foul-up in the projected venue of the PBA amateur draft scheduled this coming August and originally set at the Sta. Lucia East Mall.

My source said Buddy was fuming because PBA Commissioner Noli Eala had moved the venue to Market! Market! at The Fort in Taguig without notifying the Sta. Lucia people, who had refurbished the chosen draft area to suit the requirements for television coverage.

Obviously, Buddy got the report from somebody else other than Noli. My scribe friend said he was so mad he wanted to take the next flight back home to settle the matter personally.

I don't know what happened after that—perhaps cooler heads intervened—because Buddy never showed up at the meeting.

Last I heard, the draft is back at Sta. Lucia East Mall. This happened without a confrontation, thanks to a concerned governor who took the initiative to settle the issue.

Buddy can now enjoy his vacation in Sanfo and the subsequent Alaskan cruise with his friends on July 24. I hope he makes it back in time for the annual PBA draft on Aug. 14 . . . at the Sta. Lucia East Mall ?

***

The PBA superstar begged me not to discuss the subject matter over the phone.

"Shhh, he might hear us, *baka balikan pa ako*," the cager said, almost in a whisper.

I called him yesterday morning to hear firsthand the story that he had related to scribe friends over dinner a few nights ago. The tale is actually more appropriate for the X-Files or the book series on Philippine Ghost Stories, but as an active member of the society for psychical research, I was truly interested to document the incident.

The cager told the scribes the people he had been living with in this house have been experiencing terrifying paranormal occurrences, but he didn't believe them . Until he felt the unmistakable presence of a discarnate entity pressing down his body while he was lying in bed preparing to sleep.

"The thing felt as heavy as a car," the cager told his listeners. "I couldn't see it but I could feel its weight on me. I was paralyzed for a moment. I tried to reach for my cell phone but I couldn't move. I had difficulty breathing."

Fortunately, the entity only meant to frighten the cager and not to kill him because he let go after a while.

The cager's housemate, who is also involved with the PBA, said they have learned to live with these unseen forces who are just playful and actually mean no harm.

"*Ako nga*, I was sleeping one day with my hand on my forehead, *naramdaman ko na lang may nagtanggal. Pagbukas ko ng mata ko, wala namang tao.*"

***

PBA sportscaster Dominic Uy was supposed to be with the ABC-5 delegation that flew to Las Vegas to cover the basketball event where a Philippine team coached by Chot Reyes is competing.

When the group left the other day, however, Dominic's name was not on the passengers' list.

Now I don't know if my scribe friends are pulling my leg, but according to them, Dominic was offered an incentive by his coach (or was it his producer?) some days before the group's departure. If he could lead the ABC-5 cage team to the championship against Buddy Encarnado's POW (Prisoners of Wife), he would be given a slot in the Las Vegas delegation. Unfortunately, ABC-5 lost to the POW.

***

HOOPVINE: World No. 1 mixed-doubles badminton champ Nathan Robertson became the darling of the Pinoy crowd when he threw away his Yonex racquet to the opening-day crowd at the PhilSports Arena. PLDT exec Al Panililio, who was seated in my row, said the racquet is worth P20,000. Robertson gave away another Yonex racquet to the crowd on the last day of the competition. This world badminton competition was undoubtedly a smashing success—a fitting gift to Manny V. Pangilinan, for whom the tournament was named, who celebrated his birthday that day... Is it true that former Alaska coach Turo Valenzona recently won a labor case against his former team, more than 10 (or maybe even 15 years) after it was filed? I don't know the details but will try to find out for the next column.

Manila Marathon stakes ₱.5 million

ATIENZA PDI PHOTO

HALF a million pesos in cash will be up for grabs in the biggest ever foot race on Philippine soil—the 3rd Manila Marathon, which kicks off on July 24 on an out-and-back course that starts at the historic Rizal Park.

A total of P395,000 will be at stake for winners in the 42-km full marathon, while a total of P20,000 has been set for winners in both the 10-km and Media 5-km race.

Twelve thousand pesos will be up for grabs in both the 5-km and Celebrity 5-km, as well as in the Differently abled 3-km, while medals will be awarded to winners in the 15-under Kids 3K fun run.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the top 10 placers in the full marathon and to the top three placers of the 10K, 5K, Media 5K, Celebrity 5K, and Differently abled 3K races of the event principally organized by the city government in line with Mayor Lito Atienza's Buhayin ang Maynila program.

Manila Sports Council (Masco) chief Arnold "Ali" Atienza, the son of Mayor Atienza, said exciting prizes will also be raffled off to participants during the awarding ceremonies of the Big City run backed by Nike, Pagcor, PCSO, Red Bull, Milo, Super Ferry, Gatorade, San Miguel Corp. and Concept Movers.

The 42-km race will begin at 4 a.m. at Roxas Boulevard, between the Rizal Monument and Quirino Grandstand.

SPORTSWATCH

RP Little Leaguers enter finals

THE PHILIPPINE Little League senior team (15-16 years) booked a finals seat in their division by virtue of its wins against Hong Kong (4-2) and CNMI (3-0). The victory over CNMI, three time back-to-back Asia Pacific champion, insured the Philippine clouters a slot in the finals against Guam. This is only the second time in five years that the Philippine team will play in the finals of the Senior League. The winners will represent the Pacific Region in the World Series in Bongor, Maine, USA. The team received support from Cebuana Lhuillier, Pagcor, Pacific Online, PCSO and friends of Little League Baseball.

All Captains derby at Makati Coliseum

THE "ALL Captains Tuesday Club 3-Cock Derby" rages today at the fully air-conditioned Makati Coliseum, with more than 60 fights lined up. Competing are cockers from Sta. Ana Cockpit, Pasay Cockpit, Elorde, Mandaluyong Cockpit, Pasig Square and Makati Coliseum. A guaranteed prize of P300,000 is at stake in this event hosted by the All Captains Tuesday Club, assisted by Winning Time Jobo Sports and Gaming Corp. of Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co. For details, call 8963545 or 8956475 and 8956453. Last Saturday, 68 fights were held in the LA 939 3–cock derby. Up next is the 3-cock derby of WTJ Employees on July 25, and the "Daytime 4-Cock Derby" of Kags Paliza and Aba Badiola on Aug. 3, with P500,000 at stake. Entry fee is P6,600. With more than 80 entries, the derby will start at noon.

Las Piñas 4-cock derby today

POPULAR cockers and breeders from Cavite, Batangas, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa and Parañaque clash in a big 4-cock derby tonight at the air-conditioned Las Piñas Coliseum with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. Hosts are Bobby Esquivel of Manila and Rona Guerrero of Cavite. For an entry fee of P7,700, the prize at stake is P350,000. Each participant will also get P2,000 casino chips from Airport Casino Filipino-Parañaque. Entries must be submitted until 2 p.m. For inquiries, call 8731040 and 8743910. In last Tuesday's "Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan," the New Life entry of Jessie Banas won the grand prize after posting the winning time of 9.9 seconds. Meanwhile, the LPC management is giving away a bonus of P1,000 per win in the regular hackfights (Monday to Friday), said coliseum manager Alex Tobias.

RP dance athletes join ranking tilt

FEATURING members of the national team that will see action in this year's Southeast Asian Games, the Dance Sport Council of the Philippines will stage the 2005 DSCP Midyear Ranking and Competition at the PhilSports Arena on Saturday, July 23.

Dance athletes from all over the country are competing in both Latin American and Modern Standard disciplines, according to DSCP president Becky Garcia, adding that five international licensed adjudicators are serving as judges in the competition sponsored by San Miguel Corp., Petron BPI-Mastercard, BMW Philippines, Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Olympic Committee, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Pagcor, Gulf Air, Water Zone, Savannah Moon, Joey 92.3 Rhythm, Rene Barbier Wines and Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

Hosting the affair are the DSCP board composed of lawyer Noel Laman, chair; Becky Garcia president; Alejandro Herrera, vice president; lawyer Josefina de Vera-Saliva, secretary general; Gloria Alcala, treasurer; and directors lawyer Andresito Fornier, Marvie Yulo, Antonio Lagdameo, Edward Hayco, Emma Nieto, Ruby Co, Chona Mercado, Nanette Mendoza, Crisaldo Rendon and Jerswin Poloyapoy.

Tickets are available at the Dance Sport Training Center, PhilSports Complex, Meralco Avenue in Pasig City. For details, call 6350116.

OLYMPIC MEDALISTS: Olympic silver medalists Nathan Robertson and Gail Emms of Britain join the staff of Sportshouse, the country's leading sports and lifestyle store chain, at its SM Megamall branch. The visit was part of the pre-launch activities of the 2005 Sportshouse-Carlton Corporate and Celebrity Cup invitational badminton tournament slated July 18-24.

All Power Drag Racing blasts off at Clarkfield

WITH the Angeles Hot-Rodders Association (AHRA) and other strong racing clubs confirming participation, the Eneos All Power Drag Racing Championship Series 2 is in for a big field and a festive speed atmosphere today. Sleek loud-roaring racing machines of all make and sizes and the confirmed presence of EMG-Clero Clinic Hotbabe Jen Rosendahl and JC Parker in the 4 p.m. opening ceremony are expected to complete the picture of a steamy motor sports event.

The stage is safe and clear and of international standards because Series 2 has the post OMNI Aviation as drag venue inside Clarkfield, Pampanga. The airfield was closed to traffic to give way to this event.

Eneos exclusive Philippine distributor Delta Japan Oil Products president Bobby Tanyag said he is hopeful the event will be regularly staged.

Eneos vice president Ferdie Tarroza will give fully synthetic motor oil and signature Eneos racing jackets to winners.

Registration starts at 10 a.m. For information, call 0916-6471921 or 8122019.

WIN this Gintong Aklat today!
July 16, 2005 Today's Question:
Which novel did the National Artist Amado Hernandez write?
A. *Bulaklak ng Maynila* B. *Sa mga Kuko ng Liwanag* C. *Mga Ibong Mandaragit*
Buknoy
Ang Madyik Silya ni Titoy
Written by Russell Molina
Drawing by Marcus Nada
Published by Adarna House
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Text answer as follows: Text NBDB<space>answer and send to 283 for Smart/Talk 'N Text/Addict Mobile and 2378 for Globe/Touch Mobile
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07-08-05 Winner
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07-15-05 Answer: A
Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo is the author of the award-winning work *Catch a Falling Star*
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[illegible]
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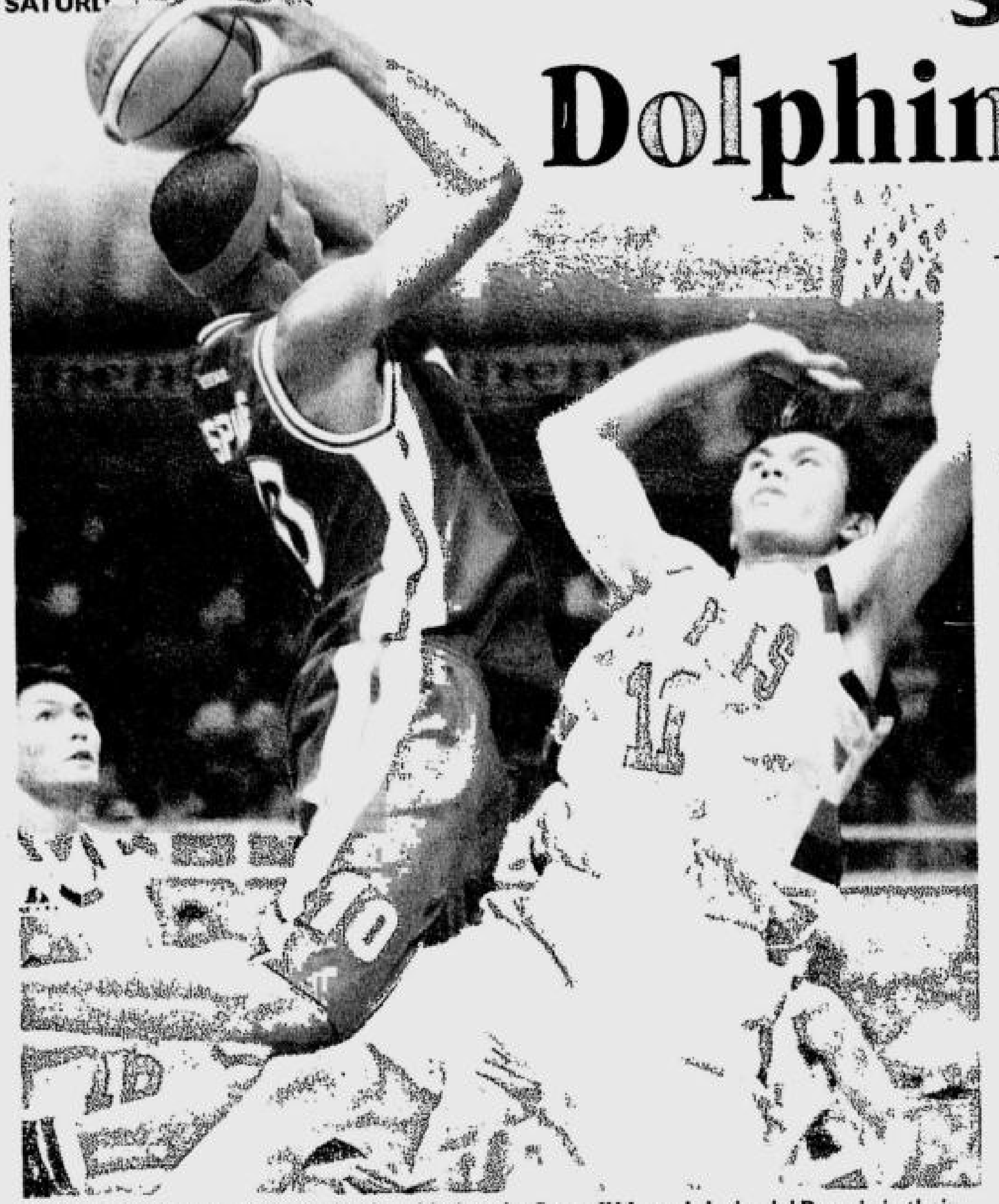
to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them.

Dolphins, Knights share top

Espinas delivers all-around performance



PCU'S Gabby Espinas (left) twists in mid-air as he fires off Mapua's Jorby del Rosario in their NCAA game won by the Dolphins yesterday.
RYAN LIM

GAMES MONDAY *(Cuneta Astrodome)*
11:30 a.m.—JRU vs San Beda (Jrs)
1 p.m.—JRU vs San Beda (Srs)
3 p.m.—San Sebastian vs Perpetual (Jrs)
5 p.m.—San Sebastian vs Perpetual (Srs)

By Jasmine W. Payo

STRONGMAN Gabby Espinas ran the show in the closing minutes as the Philippine Christian U Dolphins ripped the Mapua Cardinals, 57-49, to keep top spot in the NCAA basketball tournament yesterday at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Espinas, who quelled a late Cardinal surge, delivered another all-around performance with 11 points, 12 rebounds, three steals and three blocks.

Senior Robert Sanz topscored with 13 points, including a key three-pointer in the last 59.8 seconds.

"I told Gabby and Robert that they are the leaders of this team," said coach Junel Baculi after the defending champions coasted to their fifth straight victory. "Our offense was too relaxed but we limited the point production of Mapua's gunners, that's the bright spot."

The Dolphins shared the lead with the Letran Knights, who clobbered the St. Benilde Blazers, 65-45, earlier.

The Knights, who last held a 5-0 start during their title run in 1998, banked on a strong third-quarter performance led by sophomore JP Alcaraz.

The 5-foot-11 guard drained nine of his 13 points in the pivotal run, while 6-foot-7 Mark Andaya powered the Knights' charge with 15 points, 12 rebounds and five blocks.

"The rhythm is there and the players' attitude defensively is starting to show," said coach Louie Alas.

The Blazers fell to a 3-2 record after absorbing their second straight loss.

Espinas made his presence felt on both ends to lift the Dolphins at 51-45 after trailing at 44-45 in the final period.

The Cardinals still threatened at 52-49, but Sanz sealed the win with a three-pointer for 55-49, with 59 ticks remaining.

The Cardinals, who slipped to 3-1, appeared poised to pull an upset with Tristan Veranga firing key triples for a 43-42 at the 7:36 mark in the fourth quarter.

Alcaraz fueled a 15-7 spurt that turned the Knights' slim 31-27 lead into a 46-34 cushion by the end of the third period.

The Blazers never recovered as the Knights cruised to a 59-39 bubble, capped by Jonathan Aldave's back-to-back triples, midway in the fourth quarter.

The scores:

First game

LETRAN 65—Andaya 15, Alcaraz 13, Aban 10, Aldave 8, Bautista 7, Piñera 4, Balneg 4, Rodriguez 2, Anabo 2, Jazul 0, Realista 0, Quinday 0, Faundo 0, Mondragon 0, Melegrito 0.

BENILDE 45—Cabatu 14, Morial 10, Urra 5, Porras 5, Good 4, Aldover 2, Manding 2, Devaras 1, Orbeta 1, Sagad 1, Robles 0.

Quarters: 11-13, 31-25, 46-34, 65-45.

Second game

PCU 57—Sanz 13, Espinas 11, Castro 9, Cecilia 9, Amparado 6, Belga 5, Solis 4, Santos 0, Retaga 0.

MAPUA 49—Del Rosario 12, Gonzales 10, Veranga 10, Co 6, Migraso 4, Tiongco 3, Dela Peña 2, Pascual 2, Sumalinog 0, Gorospe 0.

Quarters: 16-17, 33-28, 40-32, 57-49.

NBC: Baguio cagers tackle Iloilo

BAGUIO CITY—Lowly teams Texas Instruments/Beneco-backed Baguio and Iloilo clash today in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship at the University of Baguio gym here.

The Warriors of IBL president Robert Uy and strong supporter Gov. Niel Tupas are seeking their first win in their northern swing against the Lions in the 6 p.m. contest.

The Warriors dropped their first two road games for a 1-6 mark that put them in seventh spot in the eight-team Southern Conference, while Vice Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr.'s Lions are at the bottom of the five-team Northern Conference with a 1-4 slate.

Sniper Eduardo Allado Jr. and slotman Ruel Balgos are expected to pace the Warriors, who fell 86-87 to Spring Cooking Oil-backed Laguna a few days ago at the San Luis Sports Complex in Laguna.

"The Warriors will be tough to beat," said Lions coach Nap Garcia. "They have great shooters and a promising big man in 6-foot-5 Balgos. We have to pressure them more since Dino (Manuel) is the only veteran on the team."

A shootout between Allado and Baguio's Melvin Fontanilla is predicted.

Ateneo, FEU coaches feel the heat in UAAP

STANDINGS	W	L
UP	2	0
FEU	1	0
Adamson	1	0
La Salle	1	1
UE	1	1
Ateneo	0	1
UST	0	1
NU	0	2

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
10 a.m.—Adamson vs FEU (Jrs)
12 p.m.—Ateneo vs UST (Jrs)
2 p.m.—Adamson vs FEU (Srs)
4 p.m.—Ateneo vs UST (Srs)

NEW Far Eastern U coach Bert Flores is grateful he inherited a team loaded with talent. But he still can't help getting worried when the Tamaraws gun for a share of the lead against the Adamson Falcons in the UAAP basketball tournament at 2 p.m. today at the Araneta Coliseum.

"There's still pressure," said Flores as the Tamaraws try to join the University of the Philippines at 2-0. "It's a big responsibility coaching this team. There are still a lot of adjustments."

The pressure, though, seems more daunting for new Ateneo tactician Norman Black.

After getting blown out by arch rival La Salle, the Eagles will shoot for their first win against the University of Sto. Tomas Tigers at 4 p.m.

Black expressed disappointment over the Eagles' lackluster performance in the season opener. But the PBA champion mentor expects the Eagles to recover from their shameful 78-60 beating last Sunday.

"It's how you handle your losses," said Black. "Our strategy will be different and we will be prepared."

The Tamaraws posted an 81-66 victory over the feisty University of the East, with Mark Isip powering the charge with 26 points and 13 rebounds.

Beefy center Ken Bono also delivered a double-double with 24 points and 16 rebounds for the Falcons, who drubbed the National University Bulldogs, 116-103.

But it was sophomore forward Marc Agustin who delivered a breakout performance with 21 points and eight rebounds after playing only six games for Adamson last season.

Although the Tamaraws are favored to win, new coach Mel Alas assessed that his Falcons have a good fighting chance.

"We have to concentrate on our defense," noted Alas. "Our point guards may be smaller, but we can match up with FEU in other positions."

LA Tenorio, touted as the league's top point guard, will try to turn things around for the Eagles but will need contributions from his teammates.

The Tigers will try to pull an upset behind leaders Warren de Guzman and Danny Pribhdas.

Jasmine W. Payo

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Experience the freedom of what you can do outdoors with Ford's line-up of off-road capable SUVs from the Ford Expedition, Ford Explorer, Ford Everest, the Ford Escape, even to the "Built Ford Tough" Ford Ranger.

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Laker's Divac calls it quits

LOS ANGELES—Serbian center Vlade Divac, who played 16 years in the National Basketball Association, announced his retirement Thursday at age 37 after lingering struggles with a back injury.

Divac averaged 11.8 points, 8.2 rebounds and 3.1 assists after leaving Partizan Belgrade in 1989 for the Los Angeles Lakers. Divac played last season for the Lakers but averaged only 2.3 points and 2.1 rebounds in 15 games.

The 7-footer who sparked World Championships winners in 1990 and 2002 had back surgery six months ago and said his chances of being ready for next season were only 50-50.

The Lakers appear to be ready to fill the void with near-7-footer Kwame Brown, the former high school star who was the top pick in the 2001 NBA Draft but a player who has struggled in four seasons with the Washington Wizards.

Newspapers here reported that a deal is set to send Brown to the Lakers in exchange for Caron Butler and either Chucky Atkins or Devean George.

NBA teams cannot announce free-agent signings or sign-and-trade deals until next week.

AFP

Pyre

Armstron

DIGNE-LES-BAINS, Fr —The Alps are gone f er—now the Pyrenees on Lance Armstrong ag he edges closer to re with a seventh straight de France win.

Armstrong finished comfor 41st place on Thursday's 12t and preserved his overall le though it was his last day in th Armstrong had little time fo mentality.

"It didn't occur to me at all,"

As the French took the day o ebrate Bastille Day, the nation day, thousands cheered as Dav coutie surged out in front to 187-kilometer (116.2-mile) tr Briancon to Digne-les-Bains.

Armstrong now has a rout stage Friday before Saturday's three Pyrenean climbs—where be without Manuel Beltran, his teammate in such ascents.

Beltran touched wheels with er racer and crashed on Th first ascent, hitting his head on phalt. He was taken to the h where scans appeared to re brain damage.

Not since 2001 has Armstr

Wie m to Mas

LEBANON, Ohio—Michel birdied three of the final fiv beat Jim Renner 3 and 1 in h match of the day to advanc to the quarterfinals of the US Public Links.

Wie, the first female to qu men's US Golf Association onship, earlier won 6 and 5 Hockersmith.

After nearly making the c US PGA Tour twice and was ti lead last month in the US Open is three victories awa ning the tournament and an to the US Masters.

Augusta National tradit vites the winner of the Publi the Masters, and chair Hoot has said the all-male club w come Wie or any other fem qualified.

She next plays Clay Ogden feated Andrew Black 3 and 1 nals are Friday afternoon, follo 36-hole championship on Satur

Things Hewitt

SYDNEY, Australia—The hype lived up to its nasty bill in the Davis Cup quarterfina Australia and Argentina.

Lleyton Hewitt won his 2 match at the former Sydne complex, giving Austral with a 7-6 (5), 6-1, 1-6, 6 Guillermo Coria. David N was on his way to leveling the Argentina, leading Wayn 7-6 (8), when rain suspen

During the Hewitt-Cor players often mocked each ning points, there were plaints by the Argentinia umpire over the slippery co Hewitt swore loudly and Coria late in the match.

Accusations of spitting grabbing added to the spi

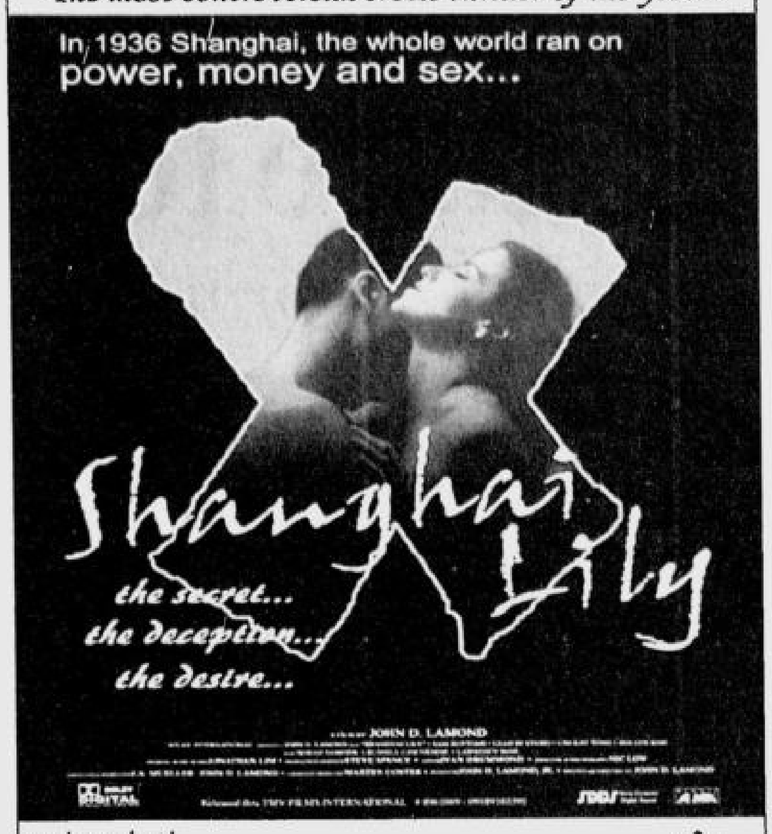
Coria, who described the of the court as a "disaster behavior in the match— on tour—was inexcusabl

"Inside the court you killing him," Coria said terpreter. "He can be the the world and win ever but he cannot behave th He was abusing the cap the other players, abusin

"You can see for you cheers for other people's is very aggressive. It is to feel provoked. But would rather not win a ment than be like Lleyto

Hewitt countered by did nothing wrong dur and accused Coria of try ly intimidate him.

"If the worst thing 'Come on,' ... if they compared to spitting in rection," said Hewitt. "H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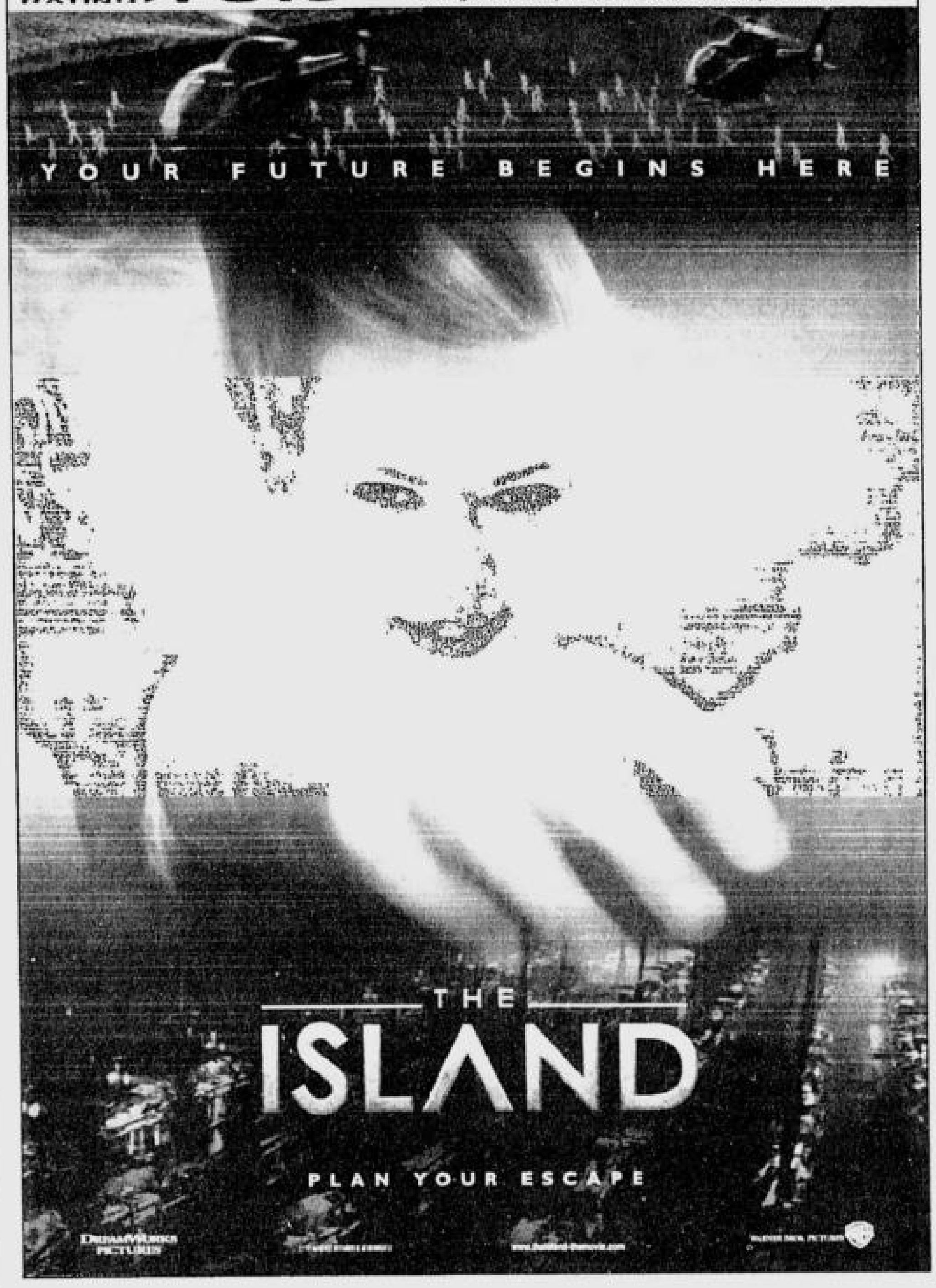

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2 (DOLBY) HERBIE: FULLY LOADED GP
3 (DOLBY) IF ONLY PG13
4 (DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS PG13
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(DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR GP

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3 (DTS) FANTASTIC FOUR
4 (GOLD DTS) HERBIE FULLY LOADED
5 (GOLD DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
6 (GOLD SDDS) WAR OF THE WORLDS
7 (GOLD DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
8 PINOY BLONDE
9 IF ONLY
10 CAMPUS GHOST STORY

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2 PINOY BLONDE
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3 PROSTIE
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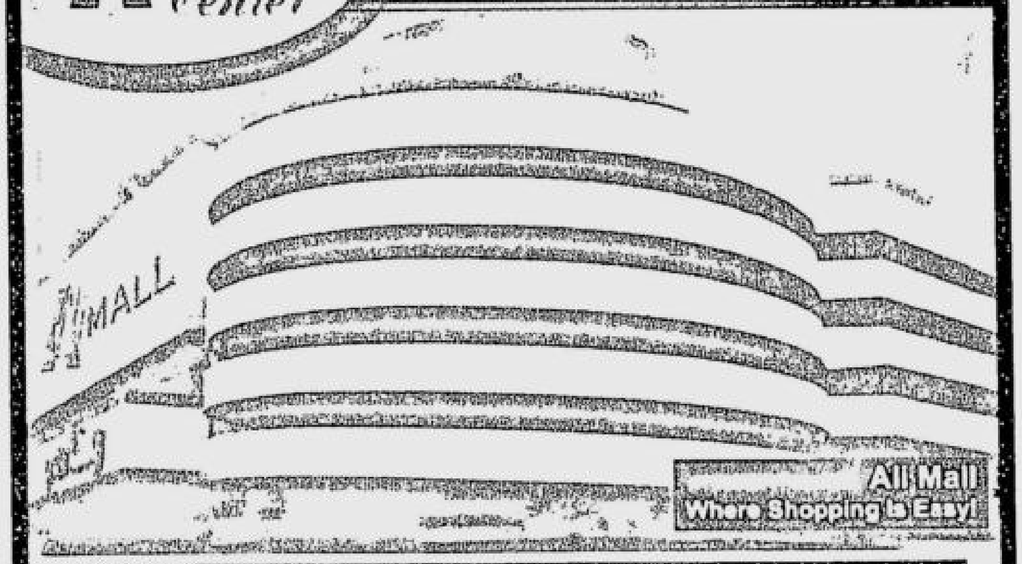
Araneta Center Leisure Guide



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12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20
NEW POLICE STORY
12:50 / 3:40 / 6:30 / 9:20
FANTASTIC FOUR
12:20 / 2:15 / 2:45 / 4:30 / 5:10 / 6:50 / 7:35 / 9:00 / 10:00
CAMPUS GHOST STORIES
1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
WAR OF THE WORLDS
12:20 / 2:45 / 5:10 / 7:35 / 10:00
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
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PINOY BLONDE
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MONSTER IN LAW
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❷ NEW POLICE STORY
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❸ FANTASTIC FOUR
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❹ PINOY BLONDE
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❺ WAR OF THE WORLDS
12:10 R4 / 1:35 / 4:00 / 6:25 / 8:50
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July 16, 21 & 23 UAAP GAMES
10 am / 12 nn / 2 pm / 4 pm
JOHN MAXWELL ASIAN TOUR 2005
July 22, Friday 6:00 pm
July 18, 20, 25 & 27 NCAA GAMES
Aug 1 PBA GOODWILL TOURNAMENT

CENTER EVENTS
SALE EVENTS *Freeway (Upper Ground Floor) and Barbizon & Sassa (2nd Floor) at Ali Mall; Cumbia (Upper Ground Floor), Folded & Hung (Level 2) and Bayo Sale (Level 3) at Gateway Mall*
PERFORMANCES *Acoustic Jive on July 16 & Mon David on July 17 at the Gateway Roxas Tunnel*

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OTHER teammates will have to step up for Lance Armstrong (in yellow) as the ascent to the Pyrenees nears. AFP

ished in Paris without all of his teammates. Beltran's role has been to use his uphill speed and stamina to help the American break rivals in the mountains.

"Three tough days in the Pyrenees. We don't want to lose any climbers and Triki is one of our pure climbers," Armstrong said.

Sunday's monstrously hard 15th stage—it has four consecutive category 1 climbs and ends with an uphill finish so tough it has no classification—will test the resolve of Armstrong's depleted Discovery Channel team.

Armstrong finished with his main rivals in a group more than 10 minutes back. His lead over second-place Mickael Rasmussen of Denmark stayed at 38 seconds, with French rider Christophe Moreau third, 2:34 behind the six-time champion.

Italian Ivan Basso remains 2:40 back, fourth overall, with Jan Ullrich of Germany 4:02 behind in ninth. AP

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WIE: Augusta on her mind. REUTERS

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LLEYTON Hewitt pumps his fist after beating Guillermo Coria. Hewitt's on-court antics are becoming a hot issue in the Davis Cup. REUTERS

and shoulder me at the end of the first set. And he complained the whole day, so I'm not quite sure what his issue is.

"I didn't say a thing to him. I asked him at one stage when he was grabbing his private parts numerous times. I asked him if he had an issue. I don't think he understands English too well."

The warning signs were there before the match began. The last time the teams met in Davis Cup, Argentina beat Australia 5-0 on clay in an often acrimonious match at Buenos Aires in 2002.

And Hewitt had several run-ins with Argentinian players at this year's Australian Open, including Nalbandian. Hewitt is scheduled to play Nalbandian in the reverse singles on Sunday, so stay tuned.

Hewitt, winning for the 27th time in 32 Davis Cup singles matches for Australia, came from a break down in the first set and fought off four break points in a marathon seventh game before prevailing in an opening tiebreaker. AP

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CINEMA 4 FANTASTIC 4 GP 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
CINEMA 5 HERBIE GP 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20
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② HERBIE FULLY LOADED MTRCB GP 11 50, 2 20, 4 50, 7 20, 9 50
③ IF ONLY MTRCB PG-13 11 35, 2 00, 4 25, 6 50, 9:15
④ WAR OF THE WORLDS MTRCB PG-13 12 00, 2 30, 5 00, 7 30, 10 00
PREMIERE THEATRE FANTASTIC FOUR
MTRCB GP 11 10, 1 40, 4 10, 6 40, 9 10
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2 FANTASTIC FOUR 12:20, 3:00, 5:40 8:20, 11:00 GP
3 HERBIE FULLY LOADED 10:30, 12:55, 3:25 5:55, 8:25, 10:50 PG-13
4 FANTASTIC FOUR 11:40, 2:20, 5:00 7:40, 10:20 GP

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HERBIE: FULLY LOADED GP 11:05,1:25,3:45 WAR OF THE WORLDS PG13 6:20,9:00	THE NEW POLICE STORY PG13 12:30,3:00,5:30, 8:00,10:30	FANTASTIC 4 GP 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:10

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2 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED 12:45FS/01:15MF/03:25/05:35/07:45 09:55LFS/09:25LMF/11:30END
megamall 633-1901
MR. & MRS. SMITH 12:30FS/01:00MF/03:50/06:40 08:40LFS/09:30LMF/11:30END
manila
MR. & MRS. SMITH 10:10FS/12:05MF/02:00/03:55/05:50/07:45 09:30LFS/09:40LMF/11:40END
cebu (032) 231-3876
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS 10:50FS/11:00MF/01:06/03:12/05:18/07:24 09:24LFS/09:30LFS/11:30END
2 LOVE LETTER (STAGE PLAY) THEATER RENTAL (WHOLE DAY)
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8 BATMAN BEGINS
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10 CREEP
11 PINOY BLONDE
12 MR. & MRS. SMITH

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3 IF ONLY
4 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
5 NEW POLICE STORY
6 PINOY BLONDE

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1 PINOY BLONDE
2 NEW POLICE STORY
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
3 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
4 NEW POLICE STORY

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SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
3 MONSTER-IN-LAW
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS
5 PINOY BLONDE
6 NEW POLICE STORY

SM CITY BACOOR
1 CREEP
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WAR OF THE WORLDS
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CAMPUS GHOST STORY
BATMAN BEGINS

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2 PINOY BLONDE
3 NEW POLICE STORY
FANTASTIC FOUR

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4 FANTASTIC FOUR

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4 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED

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4 FANTASTIC FOUR

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6 HOTEL RWANDA
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8 FANTASTIC FOUR

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4 SIN CITY
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FedEx-RP five bows to AASC

HONG KONG—Foul-trouble pulled down FedEx-RP Thursday night as it yielded a 76-82 decision to Asian American Sports Club at the close of the elimination round in the 14th Eastcolight Super Kung Sheung Cup international invitational basketball championship at the Queen Elizabeth Stadium.

The Filipinos held their ground against their Los Angeles-based Chinese-American rivals until the final three minutes despite losing three key players—Jerry Codiñera, Ranidel de Ocampo and Marc Pingris—on fouls and watching two others—Egay Billones and Wynn Arboleda—slowed down by four fouls.

The 10-man FedEx-RP tam also played the entire third quarter and the early part of the fourth period minus John Ferriols, who went out with a bloodied nose due to the highly physical plays.

Still, the Filipinos battled their American-reinforced rivals to several lead changes and tied the score for the last time at 70 on a layup by Billones with 3:10 remaining.

But with their three leading defenders out of the game, the Filipinos simply could not match the taller Chinese-Americans.

AASC's two American imports—6-foot-11 Tim Kruge and 6-foot-10 Lance Soderberg—went to work and scored 10 points between them in a decisive 12-6 windup to seal the win.

Despite their first loss in three games, the Filipinos advance to the crossover semis against defending champion and Group A topnotcher Hong Kong, which routed Guangzhou (China), 95-75, for a three-game sweep.

AASC will meet Seaba champion Malaysia in the other crossover semis.

Malaysia defeated Singapore, 72-63, to finish in a three-way tie with similar 1-2 slates.

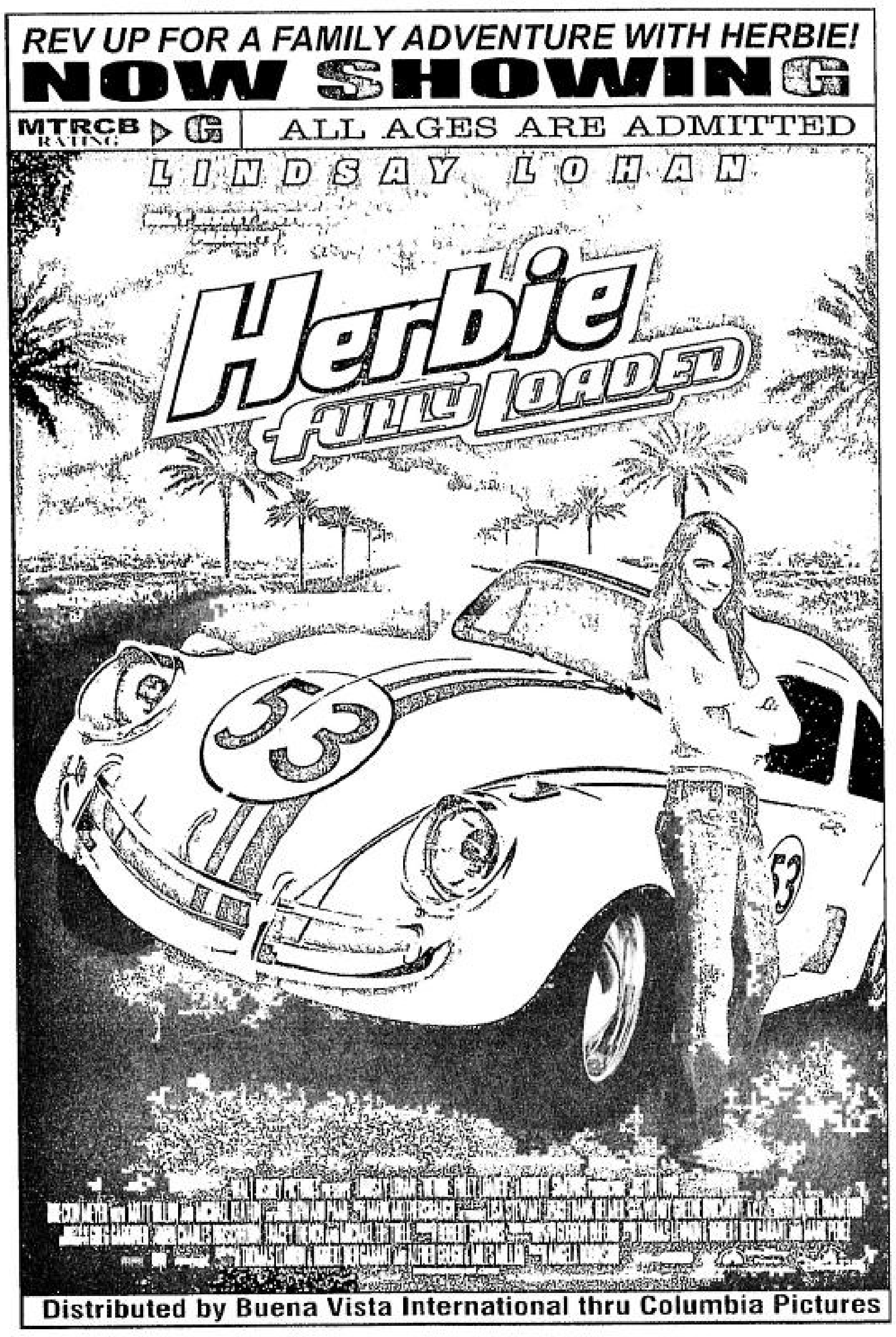
Media golf stakes Jazz for an ace

A HONDA Jazz will be up for grabs as a hole-in-one prize in the 7th Honda Media Golf Invitational Tournament which tees off on Monday at the Manila Golf and Country Club.

The friendly tournament among golfers from the print and broadcast media is hosted for the seventh straight year by Honda Cars Philippines Inc.

Aside from the Honda Jazz with manual transmission, other major prizes include a trip for two to Pearl Farm Beach Resort via Cebu Pacific, Michelin tires and loads of Total gasoline coupons.

Total (Phils.) Corp. and Michelin Philippines are major sponsors in the tournament also backed by Cebu Pacific and Pearl Farm Resort.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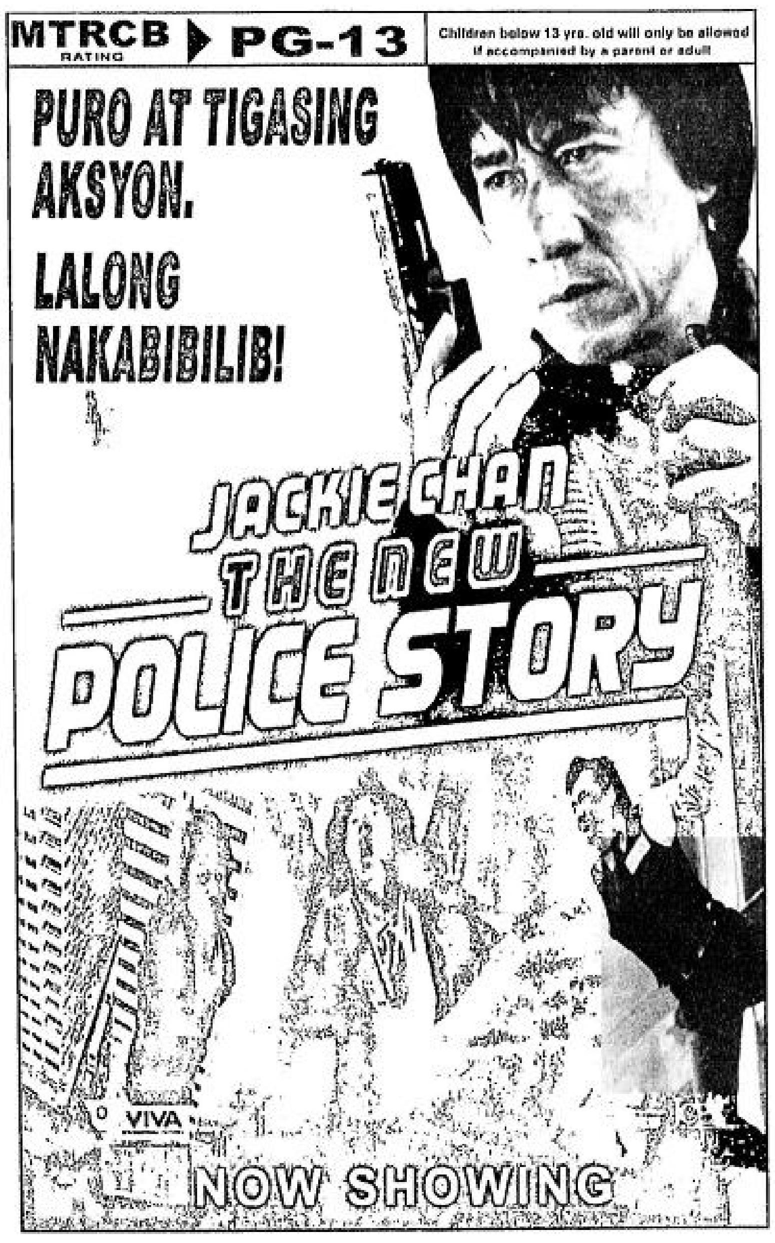
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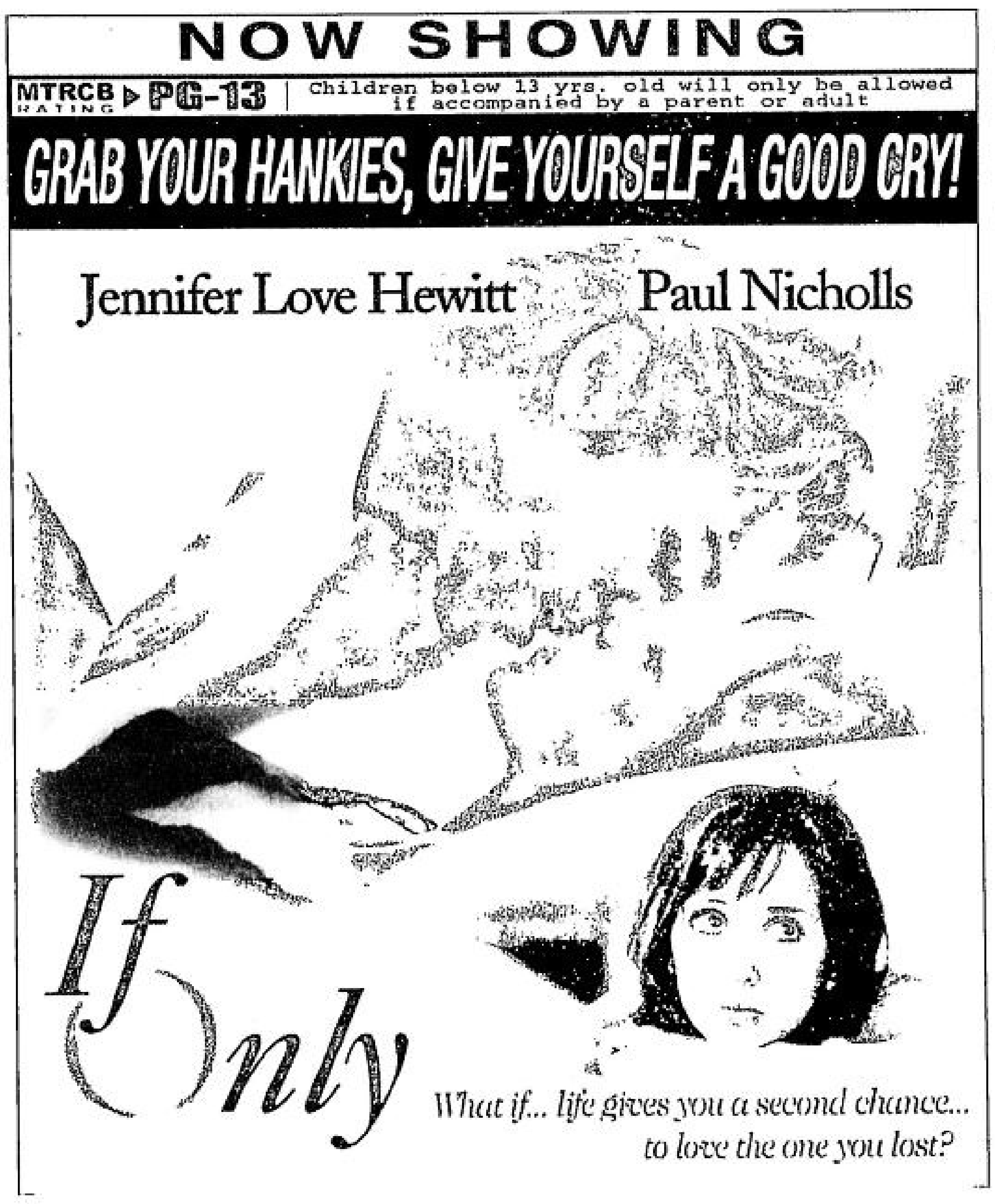
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Paul Nicholls
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What if... life gives you a second chance... to love the one you lost?

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12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
4 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
5 NEW POLICE STORY
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
6 IF ONLY
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
7 SHANGHAI LILY
1:40 3:40 5:40 7:40 9:40
8 CAMPUS GHOST STORIES
2:45 5:15 7:45 10:00
9 MONSTER-IN-LAW
12:45 3:10 5:35 8:00 10:00
10 WAR OF THE WORLDS
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

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1 FANTASTIC FOUR
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3 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
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3 CAMPUS GHOST STORIES
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7 FANTASTIC FOUR
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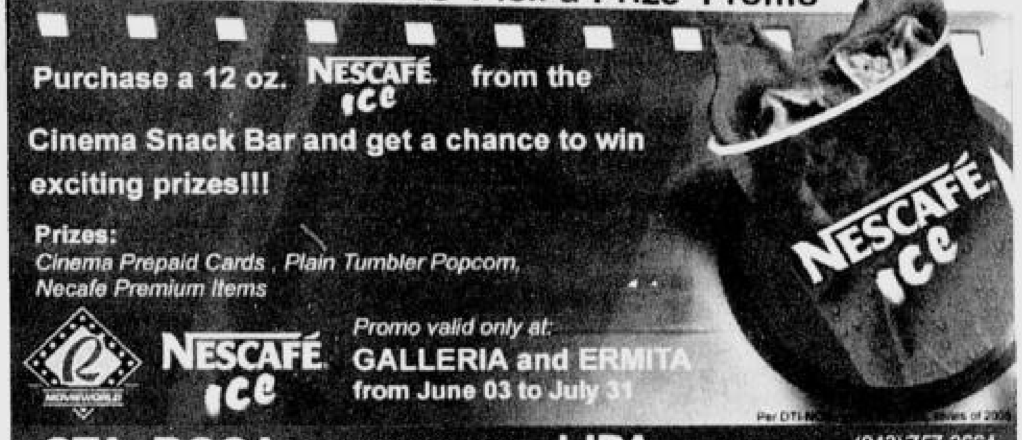

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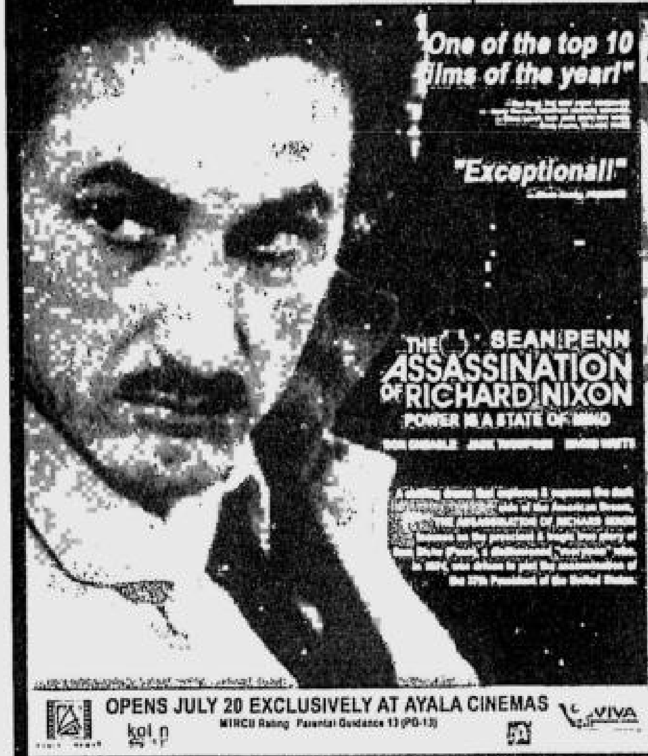

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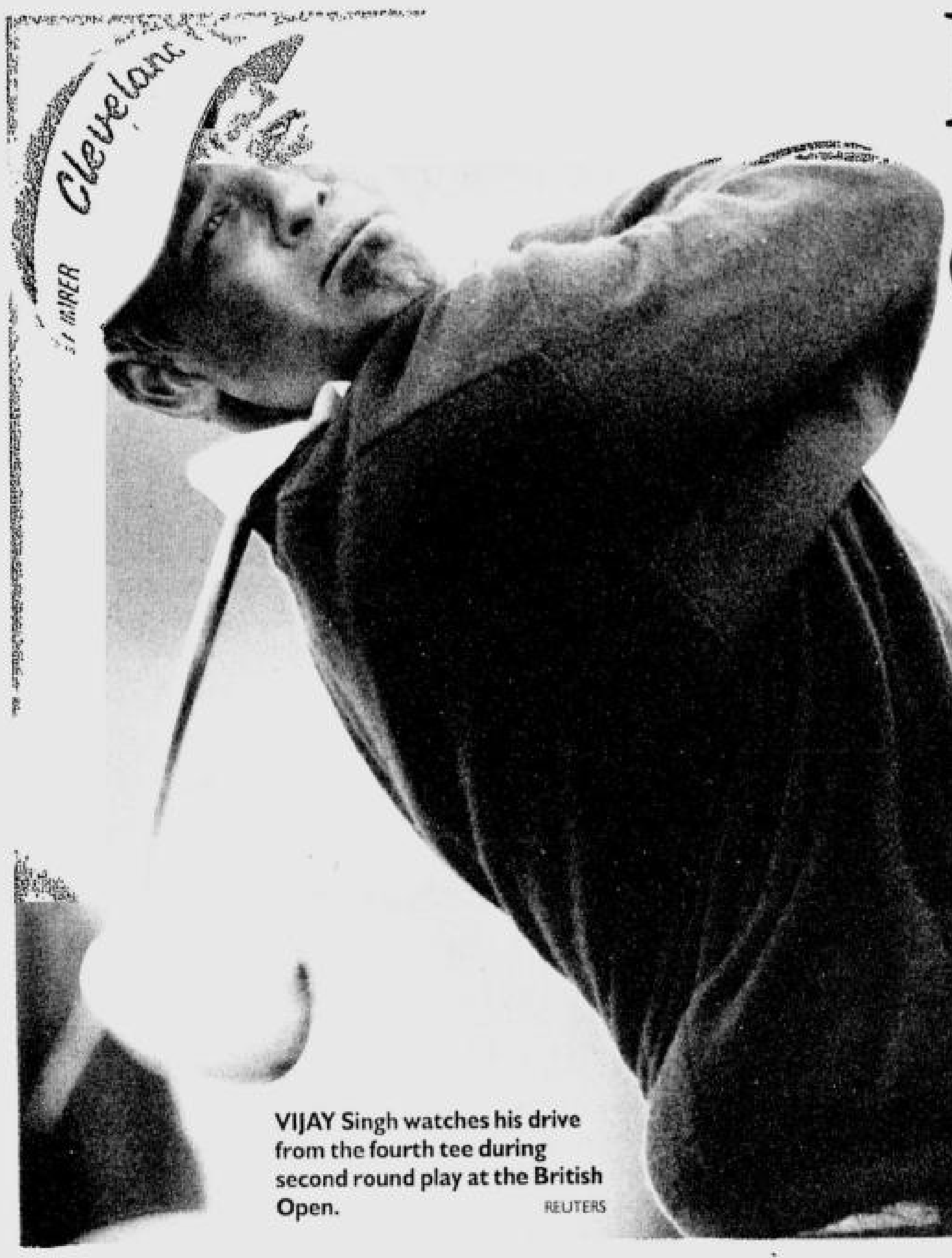

VIJAY Singh watches his drive from the fourth tee during second round play at the British Open. REUTERS

Rivals begin chase of Tiger in round 2

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland—Reports of another British Open triumph for Tiger Woods began to look a little premature on Friday as a host of his rivals in the global pecking order got their challenges out of first gear.

World number two Vijay Singh and third-ranked Ernie Els had early starting times and made the most of bright, almost windless, conditions to collect a handful of second-round birdies.

Singh, who shot 69 on Thursday, narrowly missed an eagle putt at the par-four ninth and turned in two-under 34 to lie one behind world number one Woods at five under overall.

Els fared even better over the opening nine, bagging five birdies for 32 and was still two under for the tournament with two to play having shot a miserable first-round 74.

Woods' Ryder Cup teammate Phil Mickelson also got to work early on, repairing the damage of an indifferent first round of 74 and after 13 holes had improved four shots to two under.

Els' playing partner Darren Clarke made the most of benign conditions on the east Scottish coastal links too with birdies at the second, third and ninth and move to two under overall.

TIGER Woods: Fiery start REUTERS

All had much to do after Woods, winner here in 2000, set a scorching pace in the best of Thursday's conditions with a six-under-par 66.

He was due to tee off at 1331 local time (1231 GMT) for his second round.

Els had been disconsolate after Thursday's round, blaming inaccurate play and poor course management for his predicament.

At least, Els had an opportunity to reprieve his chances.

American Ryder Cup player David Toms, the 2001 PGA champion, effectively disqualified himself early on Friday.

He signed for a 74 but feared his ball was still moving when he tapped it in on the formidable 17th Road Hole on Thursday.

That would have meant a two-shot penalty but Toms did not record it on his card at the time.

"It was just one of those iffy areas about whether or not a rule was violated and I was the only one that saw it," Toms told reporters.

Australian Mark Hensby, who was only one behind Woods overnight after a 67, suffered a disastrous start, three-putting the first for bogey and then taking seven at the next after landing in the rough twice and also in a bunker.

He ran into more misfortune at the fourth with another seven to move back to one over for the tournament, falling from second overnight to joint 65th.

Jack Nicklaus, the three-time former champion, begins his second round aiming to make up ground after an opening 75. *AP*

Alvarez flies high as PBA top rookie

YES, nice guys can finish first in the PBA.

Shell's Rich Alvarez became the 2005 PBA Rookie of the Year, following a heated battle with James Yap of Purefoods.

The 6-foot-4 Alvarez, a Burlington Shocks XT socks, endorser, isn't as explosive as Yap, but certainly the former two-time UAAP MVP from Ateneo is twice as effective. Not only can he shoot, but Alvarez, who appears in television commercials, print ads and billboards of Burlington, is also a defensive specialist, who is often tasked to contain the opposing team's top gunners and imports.

Proof: On top of his ROY award, Alvarez also made it to the elite All Defensive along with close friend and Red Bull workhorse Enrico Villanueva, also named as the league Most Improved Player.

"The bottom line is I can rely on Rich on both ends of the court," stressed Shell mentor Leo Austria. With Alvarez doing heavy damage, the Turbochargers were surprised third placers in the recent Grand Matador PBA Fiesta Conference.

To enter the semis, Alvarez, who justified Shell's decision to select him first in the 2004 draft, made the heavy damage as Shell ousted Purefoods in the quarterfinals.

"Teamwork is key to success. Winning the rookie of the year as a bonus is an numerable experience. I thank the Shell management, coach Leo, the coaching staff, my teammates and those who gave me the honor," Alvarez said. "I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my Burlington family led by Pete and Ruddy Tan who have been very supportive of my career."

Alvarez, who enjoys the comfort and protection of Shocks XT socks on and off the court, promises more inspired plays in the league.

"Of course, Burlington was definitely a big factor in my performance," quipped the 2004 No. 1 overall draft pick.

"The ROY is a boost, it is also a challenge to do better and aim higher," said Alvarez, main guest in the recent Burlington Friendship Cup basketball invitational tournament.

ALVAREZ: Shock absorber

Washington heads all-Pinoy draft pool

By June Navarro

THE ABSENCE of foreign-born players has made this year's Philippine Basketball Association Annual Rookie Draft rich with homegrown talents, including those who shied away from the freshman lottery in recent years.

Anthony Washington is expected to go No. 1, although the Welcoat star in the Philippine Basketball League is not considered a Fil-Am because he was born in the Philippines.

The other cager who nurtured his game in the US is Alex Cabagnot, who was also born here.

Washington, born in Olongapo, and Cabagnot, born in Quezon City, did not have to submit documentary requirements normally required of foreign-born players.

Kenny Williams, a talented Fil-Am who is part of the national training pool, did not make it to this year's draft due to lack of documents.

FedEx won the lottery for the overall No. 1 pick and is expected to tab the 6-foot-6 Washington. The draft then turns into a virtual free-for-all starting with the second overall pick, which Sta. Lucia owns.

Apart from Washington, no player has a lock on a draft position, with the No. 2 spot possibly going to at least three players.

PBL MVP and former La Salle star Mac Cardona is on the block, but the Realtors might opt for a big man like JonDan Salvador to beef up their frontline.

Cabagnot, a 6-foot-1 slasher whom scouts say plays like his school mate Mark Caguioa, broke all the records of the Barangay Ginebra standout at Eagle Rock High School in 2001.

Cabagnot was named player of the week thrice in the Pacific-West division of the USNCAA Division 2 while playing for the University of Hawaii-Hilo this year and in 2004.

This is the first time since 1995 that Fil-fors have skipped the annual pre-season affair, giving at least 55 homegrown amateur dribblers the confidence to apply for the draft, 40 of them coming in days before yesterday's 5 p.m. deadline.

The other prospects fresh from the UAAP include UE slam-dunker KG Canaleta, Ateneo wingman Larry Fonacier and center Paolo Bugia, FEU veterans Dennis Miranda, Cesar Catli, Gerard Jones, James Razon, and the 6-foot-8 Don Yabut, UP's Artemio Almeda and La Salle's Gerwin Gaco.

BAP goes to court to regain old office

By Musong R. Castillo

THE EXPELLED Basketball Association of the Philippines has filed for a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) with the Regional Trial Court of Manila nearly a month after the Philippine Sports Commission evicted the cage body from its old office at the PSC compound.

Named respondents were the entire PSC board led by chair Butch Ramirez as the plea seeks to inhibit the government sports agency from banishing the BAP, which has been without PSC help since being suspended on May 25 and after being expelled at the end of last month.

The PSC has five working days from Thursday to respond to the plea, its failure to do so would render judgment in favor of the plaintiff.

Acting on a directive from the Philippine Olympic Committee which expelled the BAP, the PSC withdrew all financial support to the cage body and is in the process of forcing the BAP out of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Although it was not stated in their plea, Filomeno "Boy" Codiñera said that the BAP is asking the courts not only to allow them to stay at their old office but restore all financial assistance due a National Sports Association.

The BAP has taken a hard stand in defiance of the expulsion, sending a 12-man team to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for the Southeast Asian Basketball Association championship and a team to Hong Kong for the ongoing 14th Eastcolight tournament.

That team in Malaysia was barred from playing and the Philippines was effectively put under suspension by the Fiba, the world governing body, pending its own investigation of the matter.

While suspended, the BAP was also able to send a women's team to a tournament in China where it finished sixth.

The BAP was suspended by the POC and expelled by a vote of 33 NSAs for "reneging" on basic gentlemen's agreements forged in two basketball summits in April.

Parents of chessers lash out at NCFP

TWO parents who withdrew their children from the national junior team set to take part in the World Youth Chess Championship in Belfort, France, accused National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) of alleged negligence yesterday, a complaint the NCFP top brass said was motivated by personal reasons.

Lawyer Florand Gracia and Arturo Lozano said they withdrew their children because of the alleged negligence of NCFP president Go Teng Kok.

Their children—Jan Emmanuel Garcia and Arvie Lozano—were supposed to compete in the boys' and girls' 10-under divisions of the French chessfest, but they pulled them out after the NCFP failed to get invitations from its organizers so they could obtain visas for the event.

Go brusquely shrugged off the accusation in an interview with the INQUIRER yesterday, saying the complaint stemmed from his refusal to pay for the travel documents of their wives.

"I won't pay for their honeymoon," Go told the INQUIRER.

Go said the matter was resolved as early as last week, when the Philippine Sports Commission thumbed-down the NCFP request for budget support to send an 11-man contingent to France.

Go, who promised the parents he would shoulder 50 percent of the P1.4 million needed for the tournament if the PSC would pay for the rest, said that Garcia and Lozano were both reimbursing visa application expenses from him, not only for them as chaperones, but for their wives as well.

Reigning national women's champion Joy Lomibao, coach Petronilo Roca and several others were at Go's office the day when Go offered to pay the expenses of only one chaperone.

"I did nothing wrong here," Go said in Filipino. "I was very much willing to let them go, to spend personal money to let them compete. But circumstances beyond my control prevented them from doing so."

Musong R. Castillo

MORALES and Del Rosario: Rising racing stars

Morales, Del Rosario rule superbikes meet

ROSARIO, Batangas—Renan Morales and Wacky del Rosario of the Hirano Racing Team showed class and speed aboard their top-of-the-line bikes as they dominated the Road Racing Championships and the Shell Advance Superbikes, respectively, at the Batangas Racing Circuit here recently.

Morales was particularly impressive, considering that he is taking part in the RRC for the first time. A veteran four-wheel driver (Formula 3 and National Junior Touring Championships), Morales showed the elite field a grand display of his prowess on two wheels by winning the RRC.

Peerless all day, Morales, who is backed by Paragon Brokerage Corp. and Shift Racing, crushed the challenge of Jay Cortez and Miguel Ripoll with a total time of 25:59.575.

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Surfer dude waxes cohesive album

Jack Johnson remains upbeat about everything

By Noelani Torre

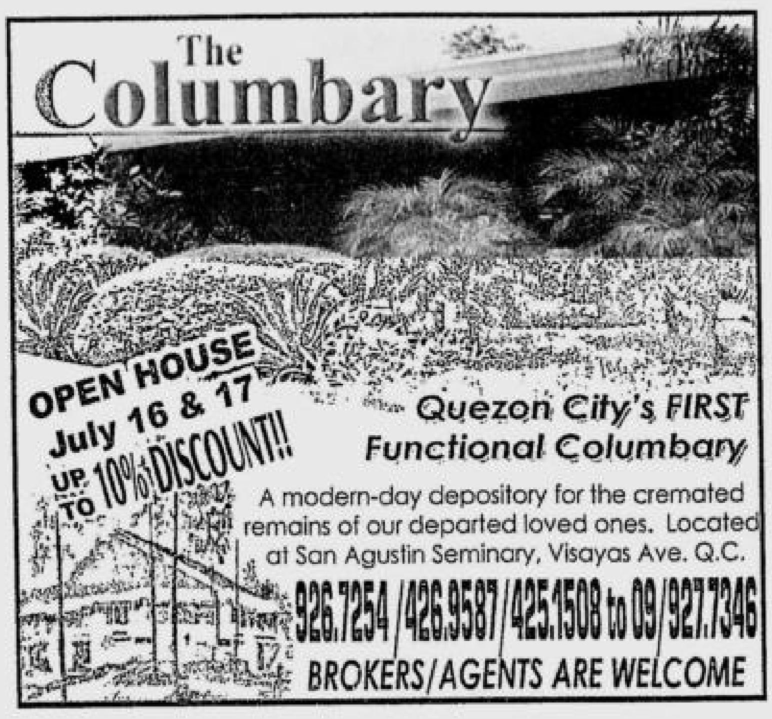
LISTENING to Jack Johnson is like lying in a hammock at the beach, feet up and a cool drink at hand: It's relaxing. Five minutes into his new album and you'll practically see the yellow light of a benign Hawaiian sun filtering through the depressing urban grayness.

Not surprising

It's not surprising that this singer-songwriter's music reminds you of the beach, since this laidback dude also happens to be a professional surfer. In fact, he's boldly admitted that surfing comes first!

A native of Oahu,

SURFER/ A2-4



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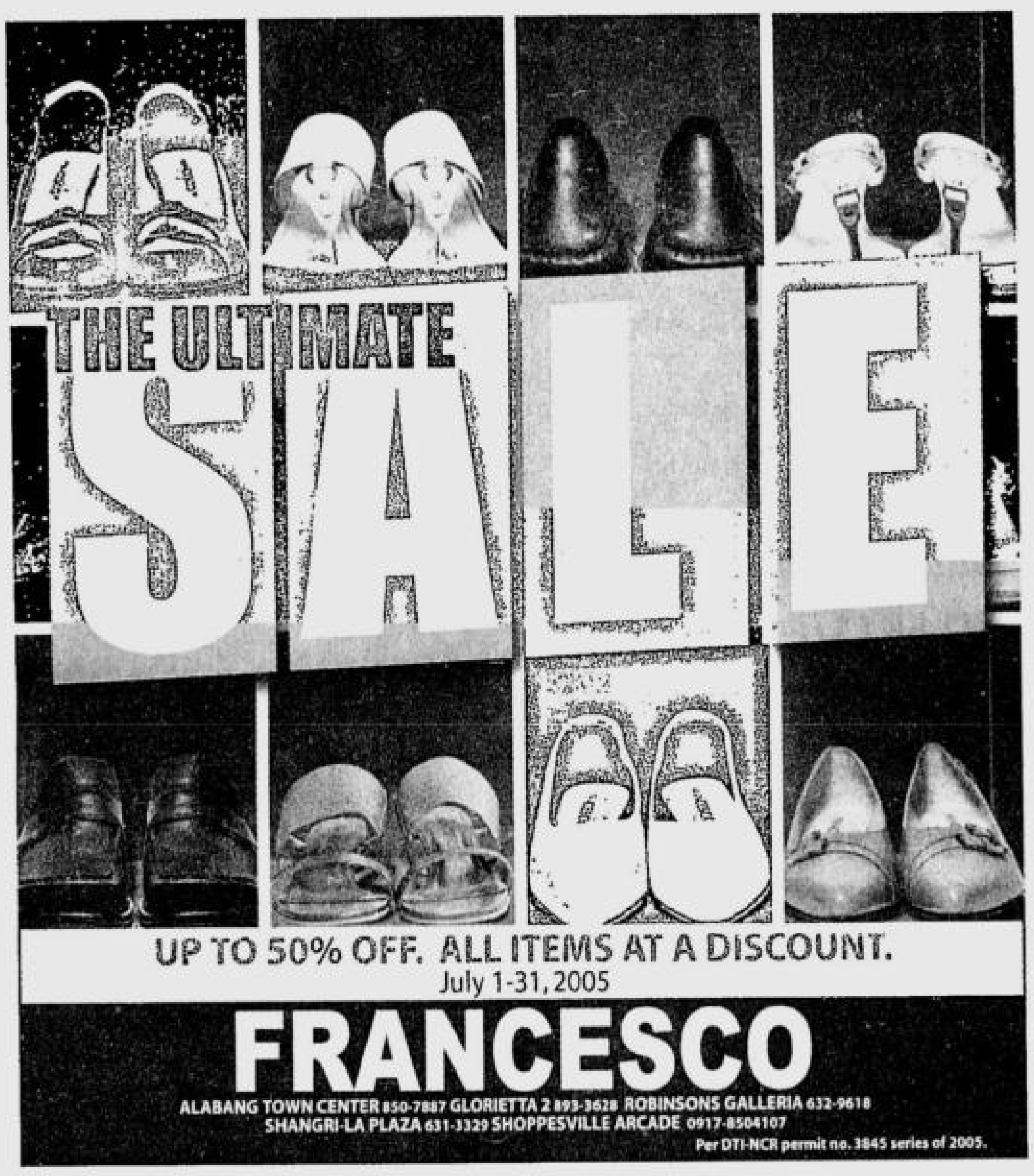

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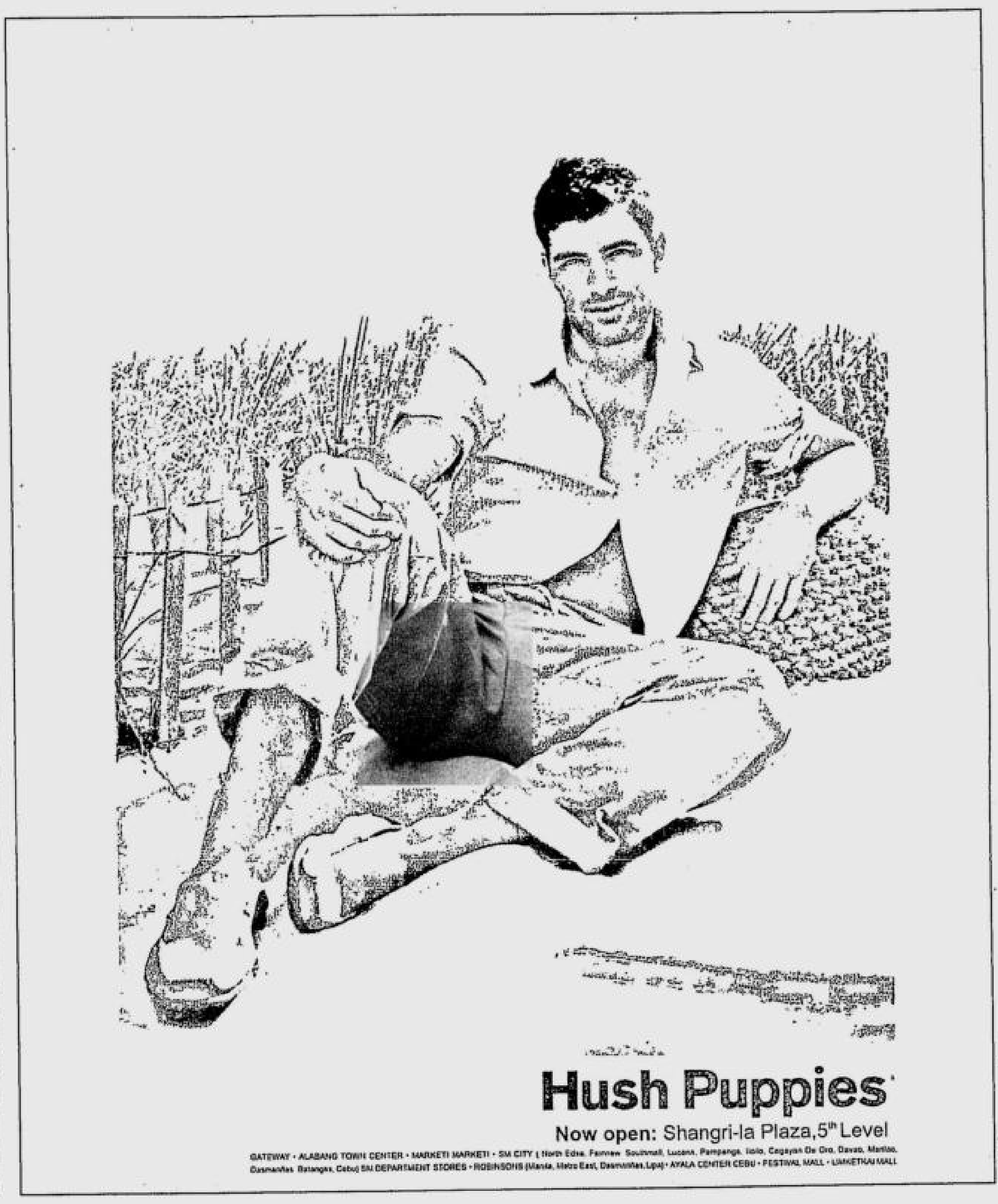

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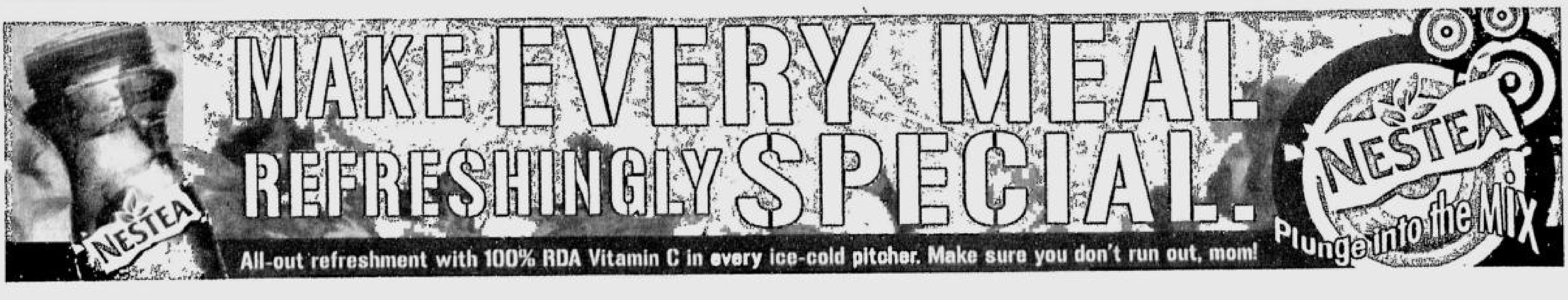

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LL Cool J isn't shy about his success

By Noelani Torre

IT'S great to be LL Cool J! Imagine being 36 and already having 10 platinum albums, a thriving movie career, and a 20-year-old superstar status in an industry that doesn't know the meaning of longevity.

Ever since his brilliant debut in 1984's "I Need A Beat," the hits haven't stopped coming for James Todd Smith, *aka* Ladies Love Cool James. And, he's not shy about his success, either, as he tells us more than once in his 11th record, "The DEFinition."

Notorious

Rappers are notorious self-promoters, and J is no different: "I'm the greatest of all time!," he raps in the album—and though we wouldn't completely agree with him, we have to concede that there aren't many rappers out there who have even come close to his kind of success.

We don't begrudge him his gloating, but we admit to a snicker or two when we hear such lines as "No need for ghostwriters/ Every year I get tighter."

Legendary

He may not have found the need for ghostwriters in "The DEFinition," but he did find the need for a producer other than himself—no less than the legendary Timbaland himself. It was a smart move, but then, you would expect no less from someone who's survived 20 years in this crash-and-burn business.

Timbaland provides J with just the right dance floor beats, and makes him sound like a newly-minted rapper. The opening track, "Headsprung," will get anybody moving, and love-themed numbers like "Hush" will no doubt appeal to women more than other rappers' bitchy frenzies.

Style

J's crossover style has always been popular with women, and it's a fan base he cultivates, as he admits in the album when he raps: "You do it for the gangsters, I do it for the ladies, but it's all money, baby!"

Though most of the tracks aren't highly innovative, lyrics and music-wise, they nevertheless manage to sound new and fresh.

The last thing LL Cool J would want is to sound old. Here, he sounds as ageless as ever—though lacking in unction.

Problem

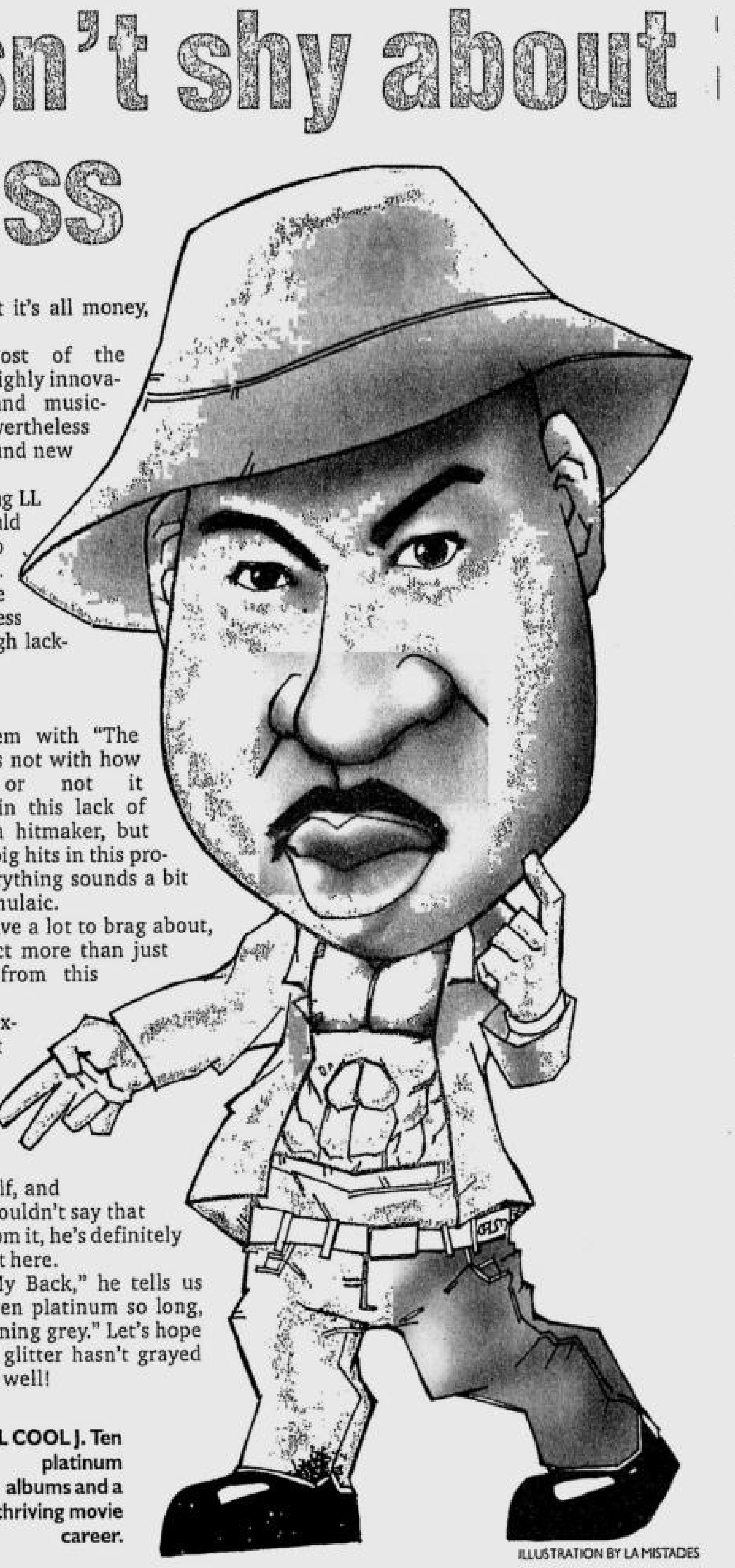
The problem with "The DEFinition" is not with how up-to-date or not it sounds—it's in this lack of punch. J is a hitmaker, but there are no big hits in this project, and everything sounds a bit tired and formulaic.

He does have a lot to brag about, but we expect more than just good work from this particular artist—we expect great work!

Standard

It's a standard he set for himself, and though we wouldn't say that he's fallen from it, he's definitely not at his best here.

In "Rub My Back," he tells us that he's "been platinum so long, my skin's turning grey." Let's hope that all that glitter hasn't grayed his talents as well!



LL COOL J. Ten platinum albums and a thriving movie career.

ILLUSTRATION BY LA MISTADES

MUSIC Channel's Studio Tour winners, Joan Ronquillo (seated, third from left) and Eva Marie Lim (seated, fourth from left), with VJ Colby (seated, extreme right) and Seven Shots of Wisdom band.

MONTAGE

'Vision for a Vision'

AT 6 p.m. on Saturday, July 23, the "Tears of Hope, Tears of Health" campaign will be launched at Nicotina Garden Pavilion, Williams st., Roxas blvd., Manila, with "Vision for a Vision," a fund-raising event marking the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines' 10 years of service.

The celebration will give guests the opportunity to be with celebrities who have posed for photos used in the campaign—Cesar Montano, Anne Curtis, Sarah Geronimo, Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Abbygale Arenas-De Leon, Rachel Ann Go, Christian Bautista, Mark Bautista, Amanda Griffin, Inno Sotto, Juan Sarte, Rico Blanco, Kitchie Nadal, Rica Peralejo, Aubrey Miles, Joyce Jimenez, Vicky Morales, Arnold Clavio and Tintin Bersola.

The launch includes an exhibit of celebrity photos by Jun de Leon, and an auction of celebrity items to raise funds for the EBFP. Call (02) 893-5995, or email eyebank1@ultimate.com.ph.

MTV Credit Card promo

Lucky winners of MTV Credit Cards' "Meet and Greet Your Favorite VJs" promo were recently given a VIP tour of the MTV studios at The Fort, where they met VJs Maike, Don, Cindy and Colby, and the members of the Seven Shots of Wisdom band.

The cardholders included Vanessa Revilla, Joan Ronquillo and Eva Marie Lim.

MTV Credit Card fits the lifestyle and interests of the MTV set, and serves as access to the coolest entertainment and shopping venues around, thanks to its special perks and privileges. Log on to www.equitablecard.com/mtv.

Movies on TV

On HBO, July 16 at 2:15 p.m., "Charlotte Gray." 4:20 p.m., Neil Simon's "The Goodbye Girl." 9 p.m., "Gothika."

On Cinemax, July 16 at 1:45 p.m., "Hollywood Confidential." 6 p.m., "True Crime." 12:35 a.m., "Ghost."

'Operanow'

ACOYMO. Performs at CCP tonight.

Ramon "Montet" Acoymo, dean of the UP College of Music, performs an aria from "I Pagliacci" by Leoncavallo at the "Operanow" concert at the CCP at 8 p.m. today.

The concert, directed by Floy Quintos, is a unique gathering of 30 of the country's most outstanding classical singers, put together by Jay Valencia-Glorioso and Karla Gutierrez of the Philippine Opera Company.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Saturday, July 16, 200

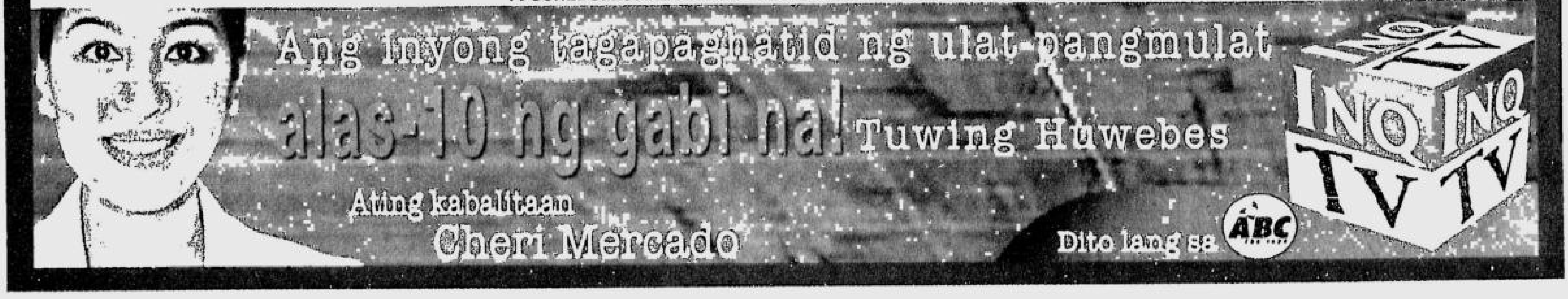
HOLLYWOOD DREAM
Hosted by Eric Quizon

THE DREAM BEGINS JULY 17! The much-talked - about reality show "Hollywood Dream" will finally begin! Find out who will get a chance to fly to New York and Los Angeles, meet Hollywood producers and casting directors, get a Screen Actors Guild card, appear on "As the World Turns" and land a role in 2 movies being produced in Hollywood!
SUNDAY 9:00 PM
ABC

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN	Value Vision		Value Vision			GSIS Member's Hour		Yan Ang Pinoy		Go For Gold		Corporate Billiards League		The Working President	Environmental Documentary	Paco Park Presents		Boxing Elorde	
ABS-CBN 2	Entertainment Konek				Kaya Mo Ba 'To		Nginiig The Hidden Files		My Juan And Only		Quizon Avenue		TV Patrol World	Magandang Gabi Bayan		Sabado Movie Greats			Kontrobersyal (11:45PM)
ABC 5	Trip Ko 'To	The Basketball Show		Anime Ring Kaisho				Islamusik		Mr. Fighting		Club TV		Wow Maling Mali		Maverick & Ariel	Herman		
GMA 7	Startalk			Wish Ko Lang		Wag Kukurap	Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videos		Extra Challenge		Imbestigador		Idol Ko Si Kap			Showbiz Stripped	
RPN 9				Biyaheng Langit	Kids TV	Hanapbuhay Overseas		Isumbong mo kay Tulfo		Billiards				Deadbolt				Money Talk	
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		Nation's Peacekeeper	Good Take	Home Shopping Network		EZ Shop		Dead & Buried				Blag		In This Corner		MTV	
SBN 21		SBN Sing Along		Friends Again		SBN Sing Along		Powerline	Gospel Of The Kingdom			Give Us This Day		Behold		The Kingdom Of Jesus Christ		Evening Devotions	
Studio 23								Sports TV	Mr Bean	Survivor		The Bachelorette		Gilmore Girls	Studio 23 Present				Reel Deal
MTV Philippines			Carmen & Dave	Whatever Things	Making the Video 'Don't Phunk with My Honey'	MTV Urban Beats	Dismissed	Room Raiders	Tattletales	One Bad Trip	Punk'D	MTV Hits						MTV Live: Pearl Jam at Madison Square Garden (Part 1)	
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	Take 5	MYX Backtrax	MYX Firsts	Mellow MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Presents		Mobile MYX Top Picks	Top Of The Pops	MYX Live!		MYX Backtrax	Mellow MYX
CNN	World Business This Week	World News	People In The News	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	International Correspondents	World News	Design 360	World News	The Daily Show John Stewart Global Edition	World News	World Sport	World News	Talk Asia	World News	Diplomatic License
Solar Sports		TV Shopping		2005 Fivb World Grand Prix				Las Vegas Summer League				Kotv Magazine		WTA '05 Telecom Italia Masters, Rome Finals				2005 EBC	
Sports Plus				Bank of America C'ship Highlights		Porsche md.5	Porsche md.6	Race Title (TBD) Highlights		BD Tah/Moorer	Tour De France	Ultimate Fighting Championship				Tour De France	B.C. Open Day2		
Cinemax		Look Who's Talking Too			Bad To The Bone			True Crime			Global Effect			Two Weeks Notice			Demolition Man (10:40PM)		
Disney Channel	Recess	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Lizzie Mcguire	Wicked Science	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	That's So Raven	American Dragon	Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	America's Funniest Home Video	Dinosaur			Mr. Bean	That's So Raven	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Aladdin And The King Of Thieves	
Discovery Channel		Human Discovery		We Built This City		Extreme Machines		First Time Film Makers		Wild Discovery				The New Detectives		Mummy Autopsy		True Horror	
National Geographic		Pharaoh's Week				Flying Devils		Creature Feature				Be The Creature		The Snake Wranglers	Wild Horizons	Big Bite Nite			
Cartoon Network		Police Academy	The Detective Squad	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Winx Club	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Samurai Jack	The Good, The Bad & Huckleberry Hound				Gransazer #1	Batman The Animated Series	Justice League	Fantastic Four	Swat Kats
Nickelodeon	Girls In Love	Naturally Sadie	As Told By Ginger	Snick: Unfabulous (New)/All Grown Up/ My Dad The Rock Star/ Drake & Josh				Danny Phantom	My Life As A Teenage Robot	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Romeo	Girls In Love	Naturally Sadie	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys
Lifestyle Network	Carol Duvall	Fine Living Special		Radical Sabbatical	Road & Track	Genuine Article	Food Fight	Date Plate	Emeril Live		Nigella Bites	How Do I Look		NY Fashion Week	Life Is Great With Brooke Burke	Revealed With Jules Asner		Look For Less	Behind The Velvet Ropes
Star World		Stupid Behavior Caught On Tape	Weird TV	Miami Vice		Monk		Roswell		Enterprise		TNA Xplosion		The World's Greatest Houses		Cops		The Kumars At No. 42	Arrested Development
AXN		Lost		Lost		WRC 2005 Mid Season Review		WRC 2005 Rally XS	E Buzz	Now See This	Now See This	Ripley's Believe It or Not		Lost		The Foreigner			
JackTV		Worst Case Scenario		Cheat	Filter	Samurai Jack	X-Men	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman	WWE Bottomline		Wwe Raw				Drawn Together	The Man Show	Chappelle's Show	Beat The Geeks
ETC		Saturday Night Live		Who Wants To Marry My Dad		Joan Of Arcadia		The O.C.		Queer eye For The Straight Guy		Last Comic Standing		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO					Neil Simon's The Goodbye Girl			Quick Change			Red Water			Gothika			Sgt. Bilko (10:35PM)		
Star Movies			Dick (3:40 PM)			A Walk In the Clouds (5:15 PM)				Under The Tuscan Sun (7:05 PM)				The Extraordinary Gentlemen				Face/Off (10:55PM)	
Cinema One	Singsing Ni Lola				Now That I Have You				My Movie				Tootsie Wootsie				Home Along Da River		
EWTN	Defending Life	Angelus (3:15PM)	G.K. Chesterton	My Little Angels	The Donut Man	The Holy Rosary With Mother Angelica and the Nuns Of Our Lady Of Angels Monastery	Black And Roman Catholic	Catholic Compass		The World Over		Fr. John Corapi		Daily Mass		Angelus (10:15PM)	The Church And Culture Today	Life on The Rock Encore	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.



Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

RICKY Davao's indie starrer, "Mga Pusang Gala," has gained critics' nod.

Digital films make their mark

By Nestor U. Torre

AS Film Year 2005 unreels, it's becoming increasingly clear that this will be the Year of the Filipino Digital Feature Film. Indeed, the output of our new breed of digital filmmakers could end up challenging the production total for 2005 of the traditional, "mainstream" local movie industry!

This development hasn't really been noted by many local moviegoers, but it's clearly the wave of the future, because digital films are less expensive to produce, so they enable many more people to make movies.

Advantage

This new cinematic "democracy" offers the consequent advantage of opening up local movie screens to productions characterized by greater variety, freshness and depth.

Mainstream filmmakers tend to be habituated to formula flicks, but traditionally profitable cinematic formulas no longer click with viewers, so digital filmmakers' fresher takes are definitely welcome.

To be sure, digital movies generally suffer in comparison to celluloid-based productions, so some work still needs to be done to even up the score in this regard.

Also, some digital films still need to be transferred to film to make it to most local screens, so the additional expense for this transfer (around P2 million, we've been told) partially cancels out digital production's cost advantage.

Clearly, as digital feature production continues to increase, moviehouse owners should think of converting some of their theaters to digital projection. That way, more local digital films can make it to mainstream screens with their cost advantage intact.

Option

Another option would be to develop an alternative film circuit that's mostly school-based. We believe that the country's huge student audience is the biggest market for alternative, digital productions that don't have to depend on financing from the old film system's traditional moneybags, who usually balk at supporting edgy, "risky" film ventures.

Recently, we advised some new digital filmmakers to think out of the box and go beyond renting digital projectors to show their films on the regular movie circuit.

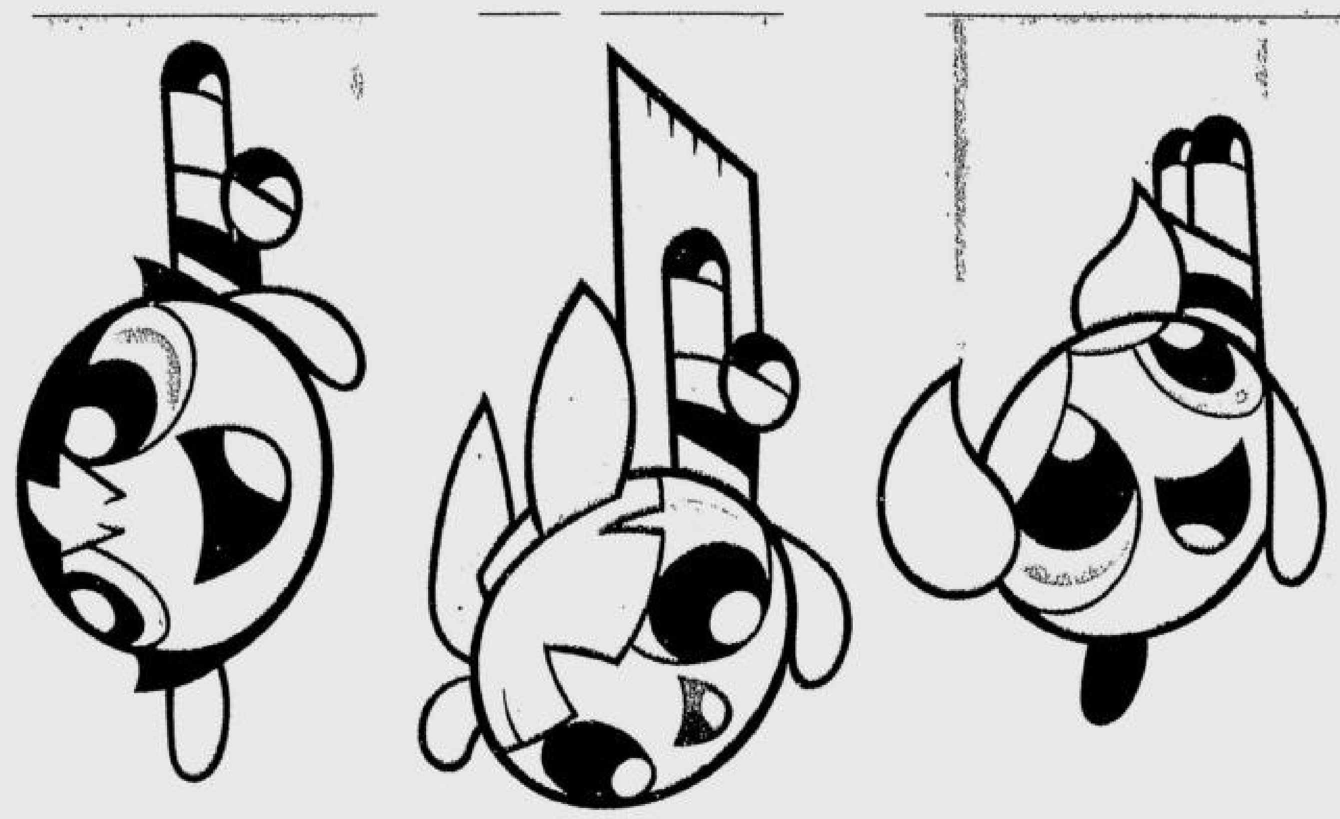
We urged them to pool their resources and buy their own digital projection system, which they could then use to screen their movies in different schools.

Students

We trust that they will find merit in this suggestion, because it would enable them to be less dependent on traditional screening venues, save them the huge additional cost of film transfer, and touch base directly with their movies' most appropriate audience—the country's millions of students.

In any case, whatever happens, it looks like the Filipino Digital Film Wave has a life of its own, and should inexorably make its mark this year.

Aside from individual efforts, the Cinemalaya indie festival is fielding nine digital features—and Cinema One has come up with six more. In the context of the languishing film industry, that's a lot!



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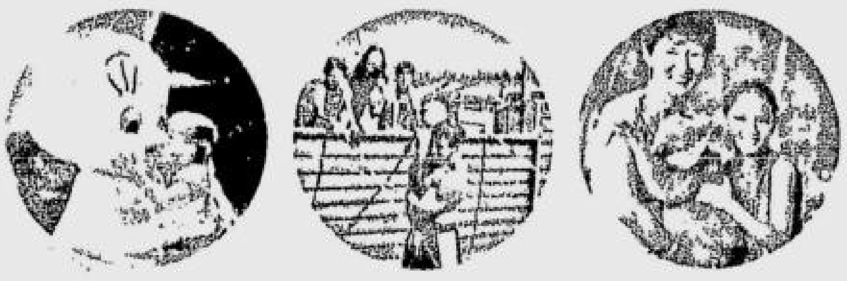

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MOVIE WB WORLD GOLD COAST AUSTRALIA

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3. Mail your entries on or before August 5, 2005 to Kino Consumer Philippines – 1234 Southbay Compound, Villonco Rd., Sucat, Parañaque.
4. **Grand Prize** (1 winner) : 4-night trip to Gold Coast, Australia inclusive of plane fare, hotel accommodations, admission to Australia's Sea World, Warner Bros. Movie World, Paradise Country Aussie Farm Tour, and Wet 'n' Wild Water World, plus US$300 pocket money
   2nd Prize (5 winners) : 1 Powerpuff Girls Carnival Set each
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5. Raffle draw is on August 10, 2005.

See posters for details.

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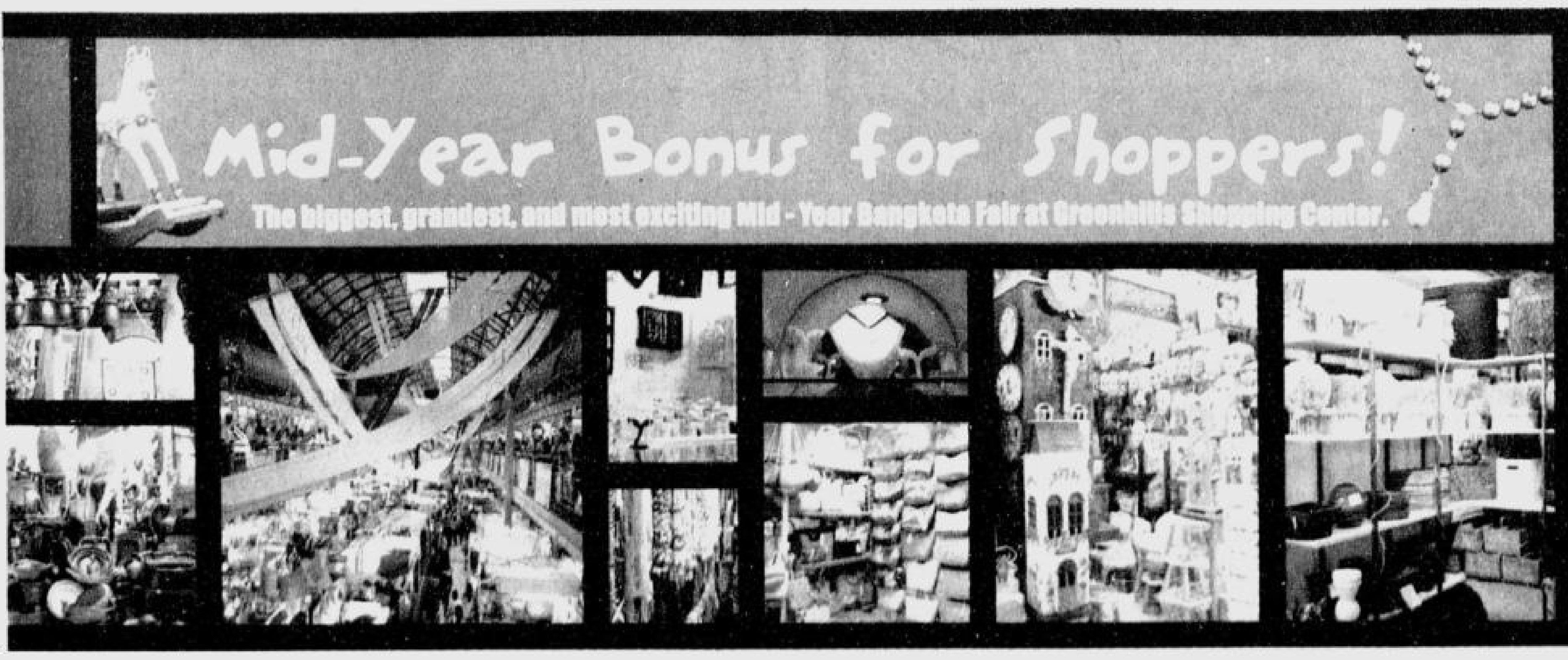
Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0514 Series of 2005


Mid-Year Bonus for Shoppers!
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Box office hit by worst slump in 20 years

"FANTASTIC FOUR." Finally ended US films' 19-week drop.

LOS ANGELES—Even the combined forces of the alien invaders from "War of the Worlds" and "Batman" could not save Hollywood from its most terrifying drama—its worst box-office slump in 20 years.

Studio executives crossed their fingers that the "Fantastic Four" comic-book superheroes would come to their rescue and provide a happy ending for the biggest drama in Tinseltown, but hope was fading before the movie broke the slump

Staying away in droves

North American moviegoers have been staying away from the cinema in droves, put off by a slew of disappointing remakes and sequels, rising ticket prices, and the fact that the films they want to see are coming out on digital video disks (DVDs) more quickly than ever, experts said.

"There is no denying that this slump is tough for the industry," said Gitesh Pandya, editor of industry tracker Boxofficeguru.com.

"It's the worst extended slump since 1985, when video machines first hit the market."

Ticket receipts from US and Canadian cinemas—which constitute the lion's share of returns on the massive investment in major films—have been down, compared with the same period in 2004, for 19 straight weeks.

While Steven Spielberg's new epic, "War of the Worlds," starring Tom Cruise, performed well when it opened, capturing $113 million in six days, it failed to push the overall box-office figures above last year's level.

Part of the problem is simply that 2005 looks anemic because 2004 was a bumper year at the North American box office, with major openings like "Spider-Man 2," which hauled in $180 million in six days last year.

Then, there was the surprise windfall reaped by Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ," which delivered more than $370 million.

"It's going to be very tough for us to measure up to last year," admitted Paul Dergarabedian, president of Los Angeles-based box-office tracking firm Exhibitor Relations.

Experts said Hollywood's increasingly predictable fare of remakes, sequels and adaptations of television shows have disappointed many viewers.

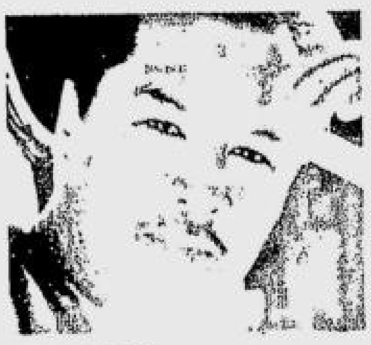
Biggest problem

"The biggest problem is, the films the studios are releasing are not generating the excitement they have generated in the past from big films," said Pandya.

"Hollywood is running out of fresh ideas, so the studios are looking to sequels and remakes," he said. *AFP*

Ray-an has found new meaning for his music

By Jocelyn Valle


FUENTES. His concerts are testimonial in concept.

MUSIC has become pure ministry for singer Ray-an Fuentes since God led him and his family to Canada eight years ago.

"I sing mostly in churches and my concerts are testimonial in concept," he shares. "I also do a couple of secular songs to show the audience what I was before I came to the Lord and the changes that He's done in my life. Towards the end, I give them an opportunity to respond to the message."

Wherever he goes to perform, people ask him for his CD. "*E, wala akong maibigay*," Ray-an shakes his head. "So we decided to come up with an album."

Thus, the 12-track gospel album, "Gratitude," was born.

Ray-an has two duets in the album— one with his "soul brother," Gary Valenciano, and the other with Kuh Ledesma, who opened her home-based studio to record the songs in "Gratitude." He worked on the album last February while giving seminars on the principles of God's economics to Kuh's fellow church members.

God-given talents

Though he encourages his kids to express their God-given talents, Ray-an doesn't impose on them. Still he hopes, by the grace of the Lord, that they will be able to join him in his next trip here in November for the launch of his CD and his book, "God of the Higher Economy," which is inspired by his own experiences, which are also the core of the seminar he gives.

Passion

"In the area of money, that's where a lot of Christians fail, and my passion is for them to understand how God's kingdom works," he shares. "The book has passed theological review and, according to the editor, it is the most biblically sound book he's read on the issue of finances, including those published in the States."

Learning experience for new filmmakers and viewers

By Nestor U. Torre

ELIJAH Castillo plays the title role in "Pepot Artista."

AFTER more than a year of gestation and production, the first Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film festival has opened at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, under the auspices of the Film Development Council of the Philippines, the CCP, the UP Film Institute and Dream satellite TV.

The alternative filmfest ends tomorrow night, when awards will be handed out. So, you have two more days to sample its nine new features and six short narrative films by first-time directors, as well as non-competition digital movies by some 20 other filmmakers.

How is the filmfest shaping up so far? There are some disappointments, but that's to be expected. First-timers' efforts are sometimes long on ambition, but short on actual achievement.

Upbeat view

But, we choose to take the long, upbeat view, and to focus instead on the filmfest productions that are well-realized, and thus could more easily make the grade as mainstream entertainment fare.

We trust, too, that after the filmfest entries' directors view their movies and listen to audiences' reactions to them, they will learn a lot about their own plus and minus points as filmmakers, and will therefore make better movies, the second time around.

And the new filmmakers' fresh concepts, stories, situations and characters will definitely have a big impact on local mainstream cinema and its audience.

They effectively show up some established studios and directors' tired and tattered film formulas and compromised standards. Even if only out of shame, directors who have sold their souls to their producers could be prompted to make amends, and to once again shoot the movies they *really* want to make.

Alternative

Having said that, we must point out that some alternative filmmakers also have their own demons to exorcise. A number of them are still mired in the short-film, "experimental" filmic frame of mind that caters to a small, inbred and cliquish viewership.

This is counter-productive, because it prevents them and their films from being accessible to the mainstream market, where the big audience numbers are.

While we see the value in "experimentation," our preference is for good talents to reach as many viewers as possible, so we go out of our way to support new filmmakers who shoot films not mainly for themselves, but to communicate with the big movie audience out there.

Happily, some of those "accessible" new filmmakers' works are on view at the Cinemalaya festival, so our hopes are high that new careers will indeed be launched at the filmfest, from which the mainstream audience will eventually benefit.

As for the new filmmakers who won't quite make it, we trust that Cinemalaya will be a learning experience for them, as well, and that the lessons they learn will inform their follow-up movies in film seasons to come.

Essential

Be a part of this essential learning and teaching process, view the Cinemalaya entries, and give the all-important feedback that filmmakers need to improve their work, why don't you?

Today's Cinemalaya schedule: At the CCP Little Theater, 8:30 a.m., Day Two of the Independent Film Congress. 7 p.m., "Big Time" and "Mansyon." 10 p.m., "Lasponggols" and "Babae."

At the Dream Theater: 10 a.m., "Balay Daku." 1:30 p.m., "Bikini Open." 4 p.m., "Bath House." 6:30 p.m., "Sa Kandungan ng Langit." 9 p.m., "Coup D'Etat."

At the Museo ng Kalinangang Pilipino: 1:30 p.m., "Duda." 4 p.m., "Diliman." 6:30 p.m., "Isnats" and "Mansyon." 9:30 p.m., "Pepot Artista" and "Panaginipan."

At Tanghalang Huseng Batute: 1:30 p.m., "Sa Aking Pagkakagising Mula sa Kamulatan." 4 p.m., "Motel." 6:30 p.m., "Baryoke." 9:30 p.m., "ICU Bed #7" and "Alimuom."

Surfer dude waxes cohesive album

From page A2-1

Hawaii, Johnson made his mellower-than-anything debut four years ago with "Brushfire Fairytales," which contained the hit single, "Flake." He followed that up with 2003's "On and On," an album that hit the platinum mark. Not bad for a guy who doesn't take his music seriously!

Acoustic sound

"In Between Dreams" is Johnson's third record, and though there's nothing in the collection that doesn't sound like it could come from his previous releases, it doesn't matter. He's not the type who needs to sound different every time he comes out with a new album—and besides, this light and languid acoustic sound is really what he does best! The pared down arrangements and relaxed beats are the perfect backgrounders for his soft voice.

It gets a little soporific sometimes—especially when it's one in the morning and raining outside—but there's a hint of jazz, rock, reggae and Latin to keep things mildly bopping.

The songs here are pretty cohesive, considering how laid-back a musician Johnson is. There's structure hiding under all the surfer music, and his lyrics are as candid as your best friend's conversation. He even gets political sometimes—as in fourth track, "Good People"—though it's hard to take him seriously when he's being relevant in that quiet, I-just-woke-up voice.

More convincing

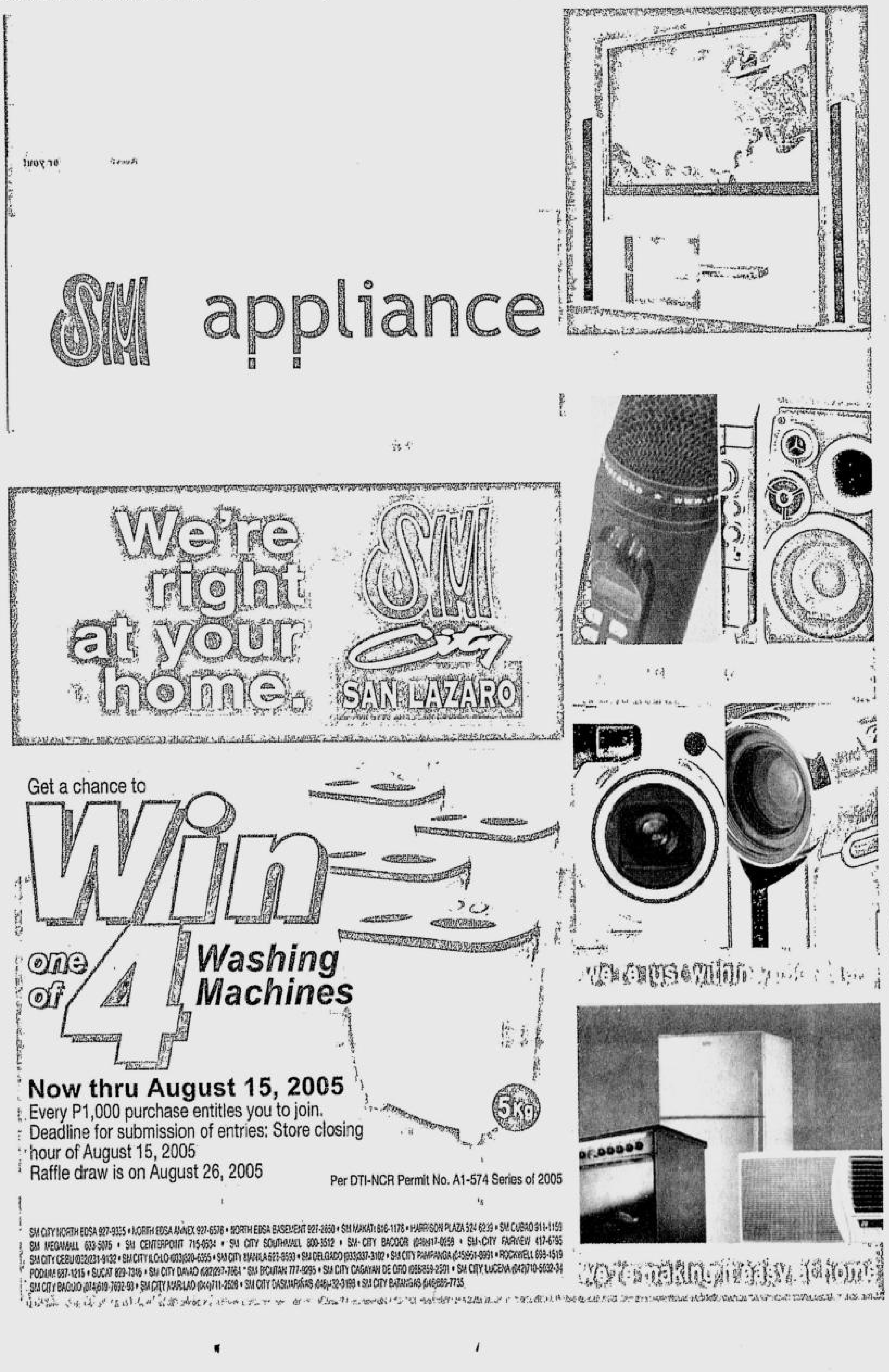
He sounds more convincing in the folksy sixth track, "Sitting, Waiting, Wishing," one of the standouts in this 14-song, 41-minute collection. Melodically and lyrically solid, the song tells us that we might be hearing more fully-realized material in the future.

Despite the I-might-be-stoned delivery, things aren't always sun-drenched in his album. In "If I Could," for example, he sings about a friend who's about to die, and in the abovementioned song, he's morose about what seems to be a failing relationship.

Sentimental

Nevertheless, he remains upbeat about everything. "Love is the answer/ At least for most of the questions in my heart," he sings in opening track, "Better Together." And his song to his wife—"Do You Remember" (Track 13)—is sweetly sentimental.

If you're looking for a complex and layered listening experience, Johnson's third album isn't the album for you. This is the CD for those who've just come home after yet another stress-filled day —plug in the earphones and unwind!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Garcia, Soriano at their best

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN we started viewing the movies in the ongoing (until tomorrow) Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival, we concentrated on the films themselves. All of the festival's nine feature-length narratives were directed by first-time filmmakers, so we wanted to see how they shaped up as film artists who could eventually help enliven our mainstream cinema.

Incandescent

After a couple of movies, however, we found ourselves also focusing on the performances in the Cinemalaya films, some of which were truly remarkable. Even established actors turned in unusually textured portrayals, and a number of unknowns lit up the screen with their incandescent performances.

This is due to the fact that the festival movies offer less commercial and predictable situations and characters, enabling their actors to liberate themselves from the usual performing conventions that restrict genuine creativity in mainstream movies.

Since the Cinemalaya film festival doesn't require star value in its entries, some unknown but gifted performers have been given lead roles—a near-impossibility in commercial productions.

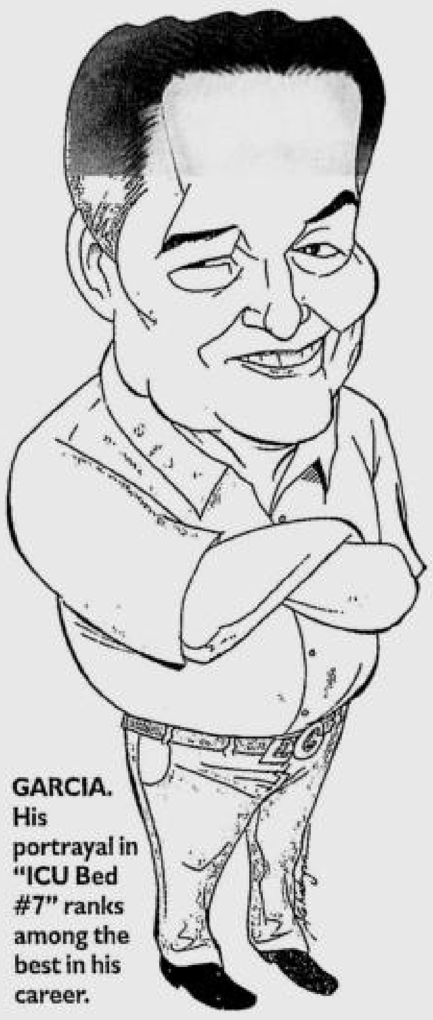
Their more natural and believable portrayals enhance the productions they appear in, and remind us that there are many good actors out there who aren't given their chance to shine because they aren't known by the viewing public.

Mainstream

High on our list of "surprising" portrayals is the one turned in by Eddie Garcia in "ICU Bed #7." In most of his mainstream starrers, Garcia plays elderly but cocky characters, the naughty "*Manoys*" and floridly creepy villains that have been identified with him through the years.

In his Cinemalaya vehicle, Garcia still plays it vital and raucous, but for most of the movie's running time, he lies comatose on a hospital bed, after a systemic breakdown resulting from drinking, smoking and fast living for most of his bumptious life.

When he recovers, however, Garcia's character goes back to his wild ways—but, he has learned something important from his brush with death, so he's more reflective, mellow—and, dare we say it?, wiser.



GARCIA. His portrayal in "ICU Bed #7" ranks among the best in his career.

This is a great character arc for Garcia to explore, and the veteran actor does so with insight and distinction. This portrayal ranks among the actor's career best, along with his performances in "Tubog sa Ginto," "Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon?" and "Palaban."

Gritty drama

Also impressive is the performance turned in by Meryll Soriano in "Roomboy." Soriano plays a playgirl-prostitute in the gritty drama, and she surprises viewers with her unexpectedly perceptive and luminous portrayal.

In her other thespic outings, Soriano tends to come across as a clone of her aunt, Maricel. In "Roomboy," however, she comes into her own as a fine, giving screen performer.

Yes, her ditzy prostitute character isn't all that original, but Soriano infuses the role with a unique spirit and texture that have an impact on viewers that's both strong and subtle.

We trust that other viewers warm up to Soriano's arresting portrayal, so her cachet with producers and directors shall be enhanced, and they will give her similarly striking roles in their mainstream productions in the months to come.

SORIANO. Comes into her own as a fine screen performer.

Busy days ahead for Cesar Montano

By Remy Umerez

CESAR Montano is not wanting in offers, despite the current slump in local movie production.

Let us start with the good news: After four years of waiting, "The Great Raid," the much-talked-about Miramax production, is scheduled to open in local theaters this month. Cesar is leaving for Washington, DC on July 28 to attend the world premiere of the war film, which also stars Benjamin Bratt, Joseph Fiennes and James Franco.

Commercial release

The actor will also be negotiating for the commercial release of "Panaghoy sa Suba" in the US. The film, Montano's first venture as producer, received favorable feedback when it was shown at the Cannes filmfest recently.

Cesar hopes that the major awards the film has reaped will encourage foreign distributors to buy the film.

As producer, Cesar wants to film stories that are not run-of-the-mill. He is currently writing a story that revolves around a lost alphabet. Tentatively titled "Alibata," the film will launch Rebecca Lusterio, the seashell vendor who gained critics' nod for her performances in "Muro Ami" and "Panaghoy sa Suba."

MONTANO. "The Great Raid" finally opens this month.

In September, Cesar will mark his first appearance in a concert, as he joins Rico J. Puno and Willie Revillame in "Bedroom Voices."

Duet

Director Edgar Mortiz says: "It will have huge production numbers, and we're arranging for the Loboc choir to do a special number with Cesar. He will also do a duet with Rico J.

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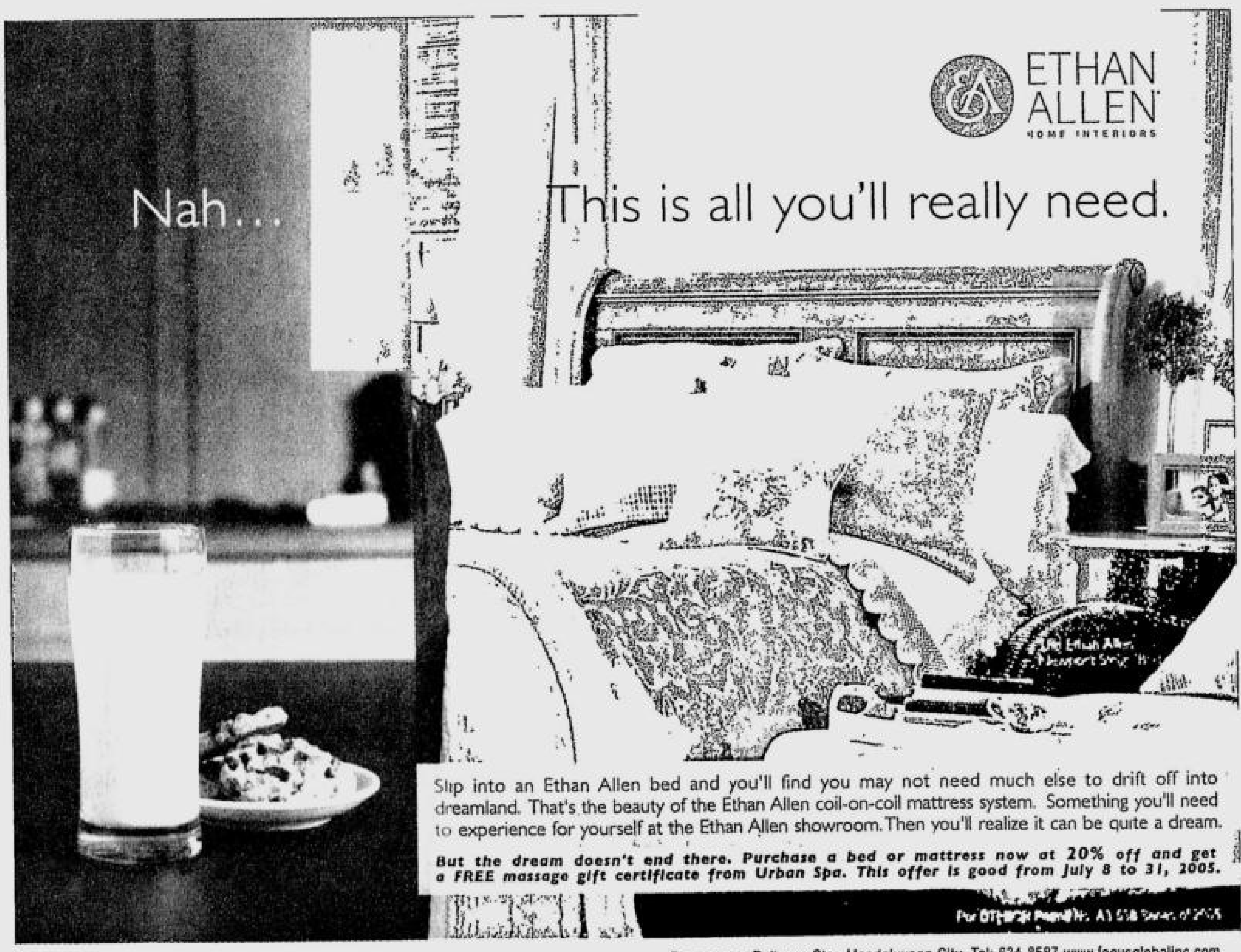

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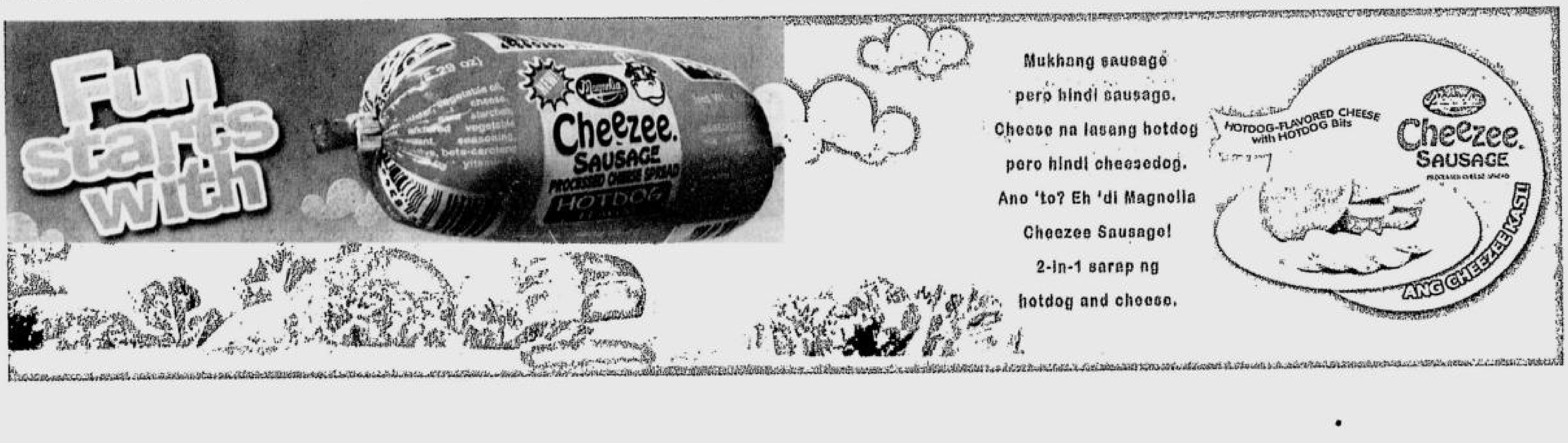

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NOW SHOWING

Peque Gallaga returns with quirky action comedy

QUIZON'S character is flawed but appealing.

By Rito P. Asilo

"Pinoy Blonde"

D: Peque Gallaga
S: Eppy Quizon, Boy2 Quizon

PEQUE Gallaga returns to the big screen after 1999's "Sa Piling ng Mga Aswang" with an action-comedy caper that demonstrates the film auteur's remarkable visual sense and off-kilter sense of humor.

After blond albeit bland cousins Conrad and Andrew (Eppy and Boy2 Quizon, respectively)—movie buffs who constantly bicker about the film aesthetics of Lino Brocka and Ishmael Bernal—are tasked by an uncle to leave a package in an abandoned building, they run into rival mobsters led by strange, David Lynch-type crime lords (Eddie Garcia, whose character loves to sing Sharon Cuneta's movie ditties, and Jaime Fabregas, who has a foot fetish).

With characters as quirky as these (along with an impressive number of cameos by Richard Gomez, Richard Gutierrez, Gina Alajar, Ara Mina, Cherie Gil, Ricky Davao, Joel Torre, Tonton Gutierrez, Ian Veneracion, etc.), who needs clear narrative exposition, right?

Indeed, the movie is unlike the conventional *Pinoy* film: It's fast, visually sumptuous and unique, and has flawed but appealing characters. But, a film can only be woven successfully with its individual plus factors if it is held together by a cohesive script. This movie's screenplay is a mishmash of narrative clutter that alternately works and fails. In addition, Gallaga's film boasts of visually diverting, MTV-style shots that include eye-popping animation.

"Pinoy Blonde" has brilliant moments that sparkle with self-mocking hilarity, but it is ultimately an emotionally distant cinematic experience. Entertaining and technically superior—but, that's all there is to it.

BOY2 plays a movie buff.

"If Only"

D: Gil Junger
S: Jennifer Love Hewitt, Paul Nicholls

In Gil Junger's mystical love story, businessman Ian Wyndham (Paul Nicholls) is given a second chance to take stock of his life, and his love for musician-girlfriend Samantha (Jennifer Love Hewitt)—after she dies in an accident.

One morning, as he wakes up, he finds his impetuous, loving girlfriend beside him in bed—alive and kicking! Fate plays a trick on him and gives him a chance to relive the day when she lost her life. Ian grabs at the opportunity to cheat fate and change the course of destiny. But, is love enough? —And, at what price?

Junger's bittersweet romance may not be everybody's cup of cinematic tea, but it serves as a cautionary reminder for people to appreciate the blessings that come their way. It also dispenses lessons about loving and taking chances in life. As the film puts it succinctly: Death doesn't put an end to love!

The movie showcases Hewitt's thespic chops—as well as her vocal pipes, in a scene that demonstrates the former TV star's impressive singing ability. But, what the movie really showcases is the considerable talent of British heartthrob Nicholls. We have been predicting a lucrative film career for Nicholls ever since we caught his remarkable thespic turn in Nicholas Wright's brilliant play on Van Gogh, "Vincent at Brixton," at the Wyndham on London's West End. In this film, he realizes that promise with his unique combination of dramatic skill and charisma.

"New Police Story"

D: Benny Chan
S: Jackie Chan, Nicholas Tse

Jackie Chan's fans won't be disappointed in his latest actioner. After Hong Kong police inspector Wing (Chan) falls victim to a trap that results in the death of his entire squad, he falls into depression and becomes a drunk—until a young rookie (Nicholas Tse) helps him get back on his feet. Then, the race to catch Joe's Gang of Five begins, as Wing's struggle to serve justice becomes more personal.

Chan adds a darker tone to an otherwise derivative action flick. But, the superstar's trademark lightning-speed action choreography, his winsome persona, and the film's good production values are held at bay to keep the familiar narrative light and engaging.

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Baguio	Aug. 19, 26 - Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Oct. 7	Oct. 22
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Some standout entries in Cinemalaya filmfest

By Nestor U. Torre

HERE are some should-see movies at the ongoing (until Sunday) Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival at the CCP :

"Pepot Artista" by Doy del Mundo is about a star-struck boy in the '70s (Elijah Castillo)—and much more!

RIO Locsin plays title character's mother in "Pepot Artista."

Scope

Even as it follows Pepot's story, the film slowly but surely, and very insightfully, expands the scope of its concerns to include Filipinos' innate love for movies and music, the complex roles entertainment plays in our lives, and the social context that informs the development of these significant themes.

Best of all, the film manages to do all this while keeping its proceedings light and bemusing for the most part. Rio Locsin, Cris Villanueva, Noni Buencamino, Joy Soler-De Castro and Epy Quizon turn in affecting performances, but young Elijah "owns" the film, as well as he should!

Patriarch

"ICU Bed #7" by Rica Arevalo is about a cantankerous, overbearing patriarch (Eddie Garcia) who takes stock of his life after he ends up comatose in the hospital. His two daughters (Angel Aquino and Irma Adlawan) also come to terms with their difficult father, who brought them up with a heavy hand.

Despite its slim storyline, the film sustains viewers' interest and involvement for the most part, with its focused and quietly emotional depiction of familial conflicts and love.

Garcia dominates the family drama with his vital, textured portrayal of the sidelined patriarch, whose zest for life keeps even the specter of Death at bay.

Petty crooks

"Big Time" by Mario Cornejo and Monster Jimenez shows what happens when two petty crooks (Nor Domingo and Winston Elizalde) get involved in a kidnapping and find that they're in *way* over their heads.

They plan to kidnap an aspiring starlet (Joanne Miller), but are sucked into a big "kidnap-me" moneymaking scheme thought up by the son (Jamie Wilson) of a malevolent crime lord (Michael de Mesa).

WILSON. Portrays mobster's son in Mario Cornejo's "Big Time."

This comedy of errors—and terrors—comes across as fresh, edgy and *now*, despite its obvious nods to Tarantino and company. The style may be derivative, but the movie makes it its own—and that's no mean feat.

The production is further distinguished by its cast's textured ensemble work, and a number of its lead performances are outstanding.

Even better, this movie introduces viewers to some gifted actors whose work is seldom seen on the big screen.

Motel attendant

"Roomboy" by Aloysius Adlawan is a streetwise drama about a motel attendant (Polo Ravales) whose wife is in a mental institution.

While waiting for her to get well enough so they can go back home to the province, he gets involved with a prostitute (Meryll Soriano) who lives in a world of illusion.

Despite their basic incompatibility, they eventually establish a bond that enables them to support each other as they cope with a number of trying challenges.

The big surprise in the film is Soriano's florid, sassy but focused portrayal.

The Company at Merk's Bistro

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

THE COMPANY performs at Merk's Bistro (every Tuesday night this month). The group renders magnificent songs with great harmony.

The Company is observing its 20th anniversary this year. Named after a popular musical by Stephen Sondheim, the group started doing back-up vocals for popular concert artists, until they made a name for themselves as a vocal harmony group.

Medley

Their show at Merk's Bistro opens with a medley of their hits —"Everlasting Love," "Now That I Have You," and "Pakisabi Na Lang." With Beth Martin as musical director, the group enthralls the audience with well-loved ballads like "Precious and Few," "Haven't We Met," "Just a Love Song," "Neil Sedaka Medley," as well as dance tunes like "September," and "Ain't Nothing's Gonna Keep Me from You."

The group is composed of Moy (tenor/bass), Annie Quintos (soprano/alto), Andre Castillo (tenor/baritone), Cecile Bautista (alto), Reuben Laurente (tenor) and Plantado (soprano).

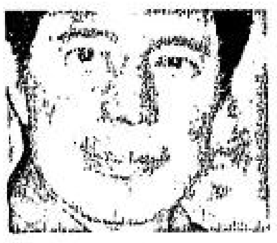
Repertoire

According to Ortiz, their repertoire ranges from classical, pop, jazz, dance, rhythm and blues, contemporary, novelty, folk to gospel—name it, they perform it! Call 757-4720 or 757-4721.

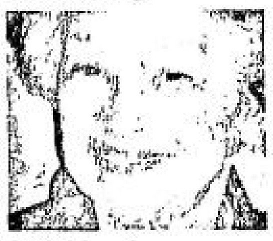
Email author at mandy-navasero@photopro.com.ph or 899-1767

THE COMPANY is composed of (clockwise, from top left) Cecile Bautista, Moy Ortiz, Annie Quintos, Andre Castillo and Reuben Laurente.

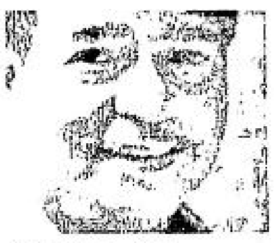
VERSATILE actresses do justice to the many roles assigned to them.



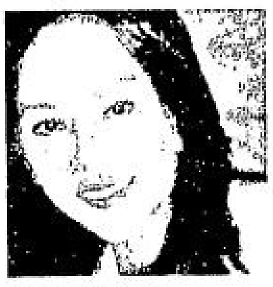
LAUREL. Selfless and hardworking.



DANS. Loving involvement.



ABUEL. Inspiring example.



VIOLAN. High standards.

ORLINA. Hands-on and "heart-on" support.

'Caysasay' ends CCP run on a high note

ALCASID. Showed newer members of the cast that stars can be wonderful persons and giving co-workers, too.

Cayabyab's musical pays fervent tribute to Taal's beloved Lady —*Ave*, Maria!

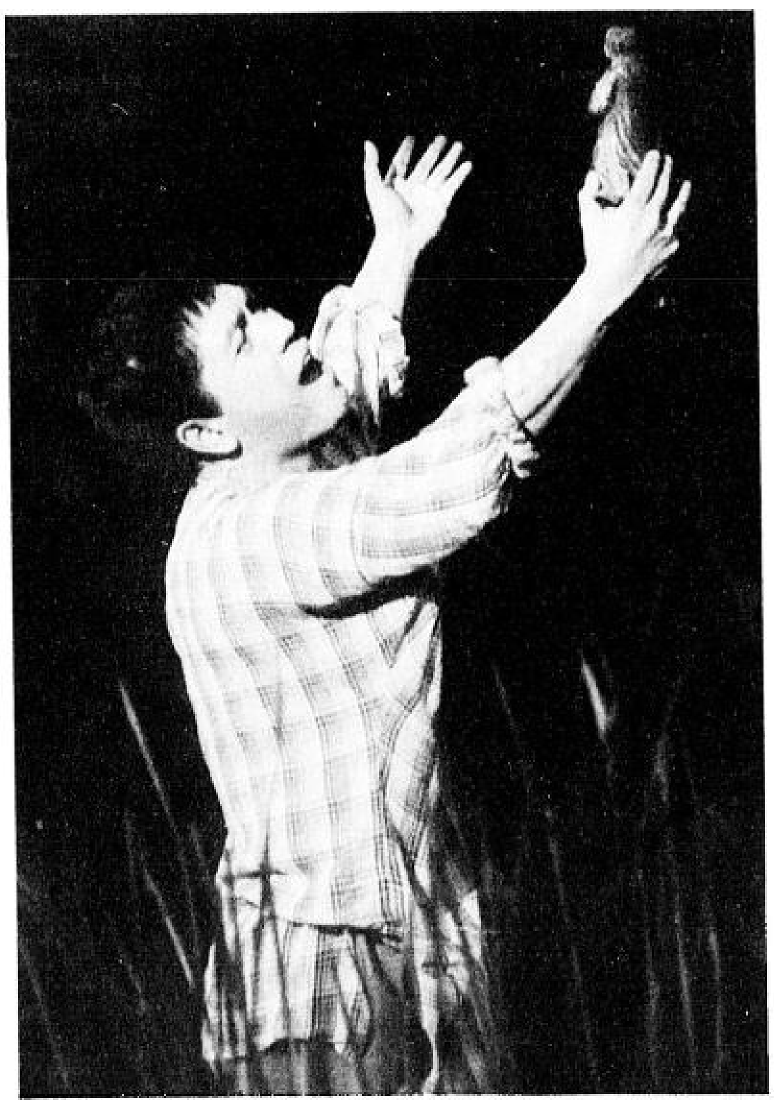
By Nestor U. Torre

AFTER the last performance of Ryan Cayabyab's new religious musical, "Mapaghimalang Birhen ng Caysasay," at the CCP Little Theater last Sunday night, the show's cast and creative staff basked in the glow of yet another standing ovation from the production's obviously delighted viewers. Standing ovations aren't easy to come by in local theater, so the accolade told the show's talents that the musical meant something special not only to them, but to their audience as well.

At the cast party later that night, they counted their blessings:

Cayabyab's songs, described by an enthralled member of the audience as among the best in his career, coupled with the heartfelt and beautifully expressive lyrics by Rito Asilo and Noelani Torre.

The inspiring example and high standards set by the show's stellar leads—Ogie Alcasid, Cocoy Laurel, Ivy Violan, etc. They worked as hard as everybody else, came to rehearsals on time, and poured their heart and soul into the production.



ASILO. Played Juan Maningkad, the fisherman who finds the image in his net.

Resolve

They showed the newer members of the cast that stars can be wonderful persons and giving co-workers, and steeled their resolve to be similarly selfless once they also achieved stellar status.

The hands-on and "heart-on" support of executive producer Ramon Orlina and his wife Lay-Ann, and the members of the three foundations that mounted the musical, to pay tribute to Our Lady of Caysasay, and to spread the word about her healing tradition. Happily, their expectations have been exceeded, since invitations to tour the show have come, not just from within the country, but also from overseas.

The similarly inspiring example of theater luminaries like Tommy Abuel, Lou Veloso, Andy Bais and Rito Asilo, who set professional standards of performance for the tyros in the company.

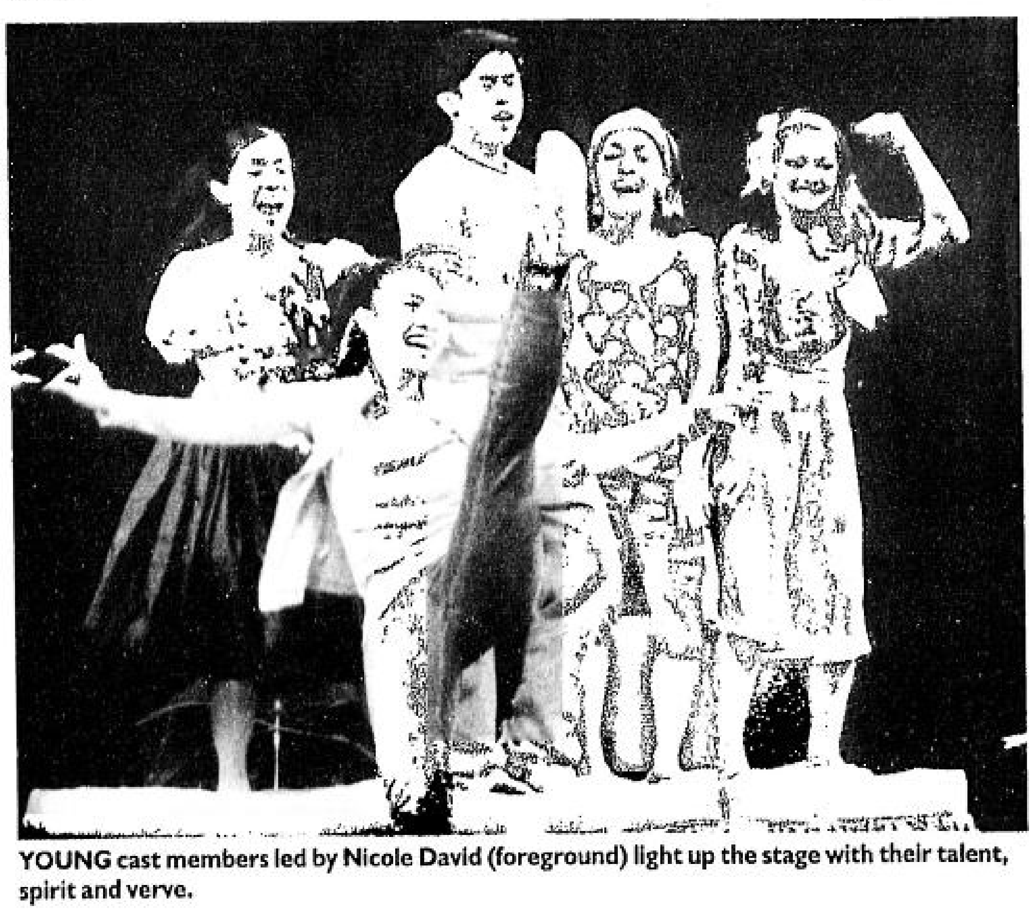
Spirit and verve

The confidently stellar work turned in by those tyros, like Nicole David, Ira Marasigan, Elijah Castillo and Myka Torre, who brightened the stage with their obvious talent, spirit and verve.

The depth and wisdom added to the production by the loving involvement of senior visual artist, actress and singer Cheloy Dans, whose textured and felt performance the audience invariably rewarded with especially warm accolades.

The talent, determination and commitment of Madrigal Singers stalwart, Jane Diaz, who stepped into her role after a singing star backed out, but brought it up to exciting performance level after only one week of rehearsals.

The rediscovery in this production of an outstanding young character actor in Jonas Santos, who shared scenes with the daunting likes of Ogie and Cocoy, and confidently held his own.



YOUNG cast members led by Nicole David (foreground) light up the stage with their talent, spirit and verve.

Versatility

The versatility of young character actresses, Nadja Matining and Karla Pambid, who did justice to the many roles assigned to them.

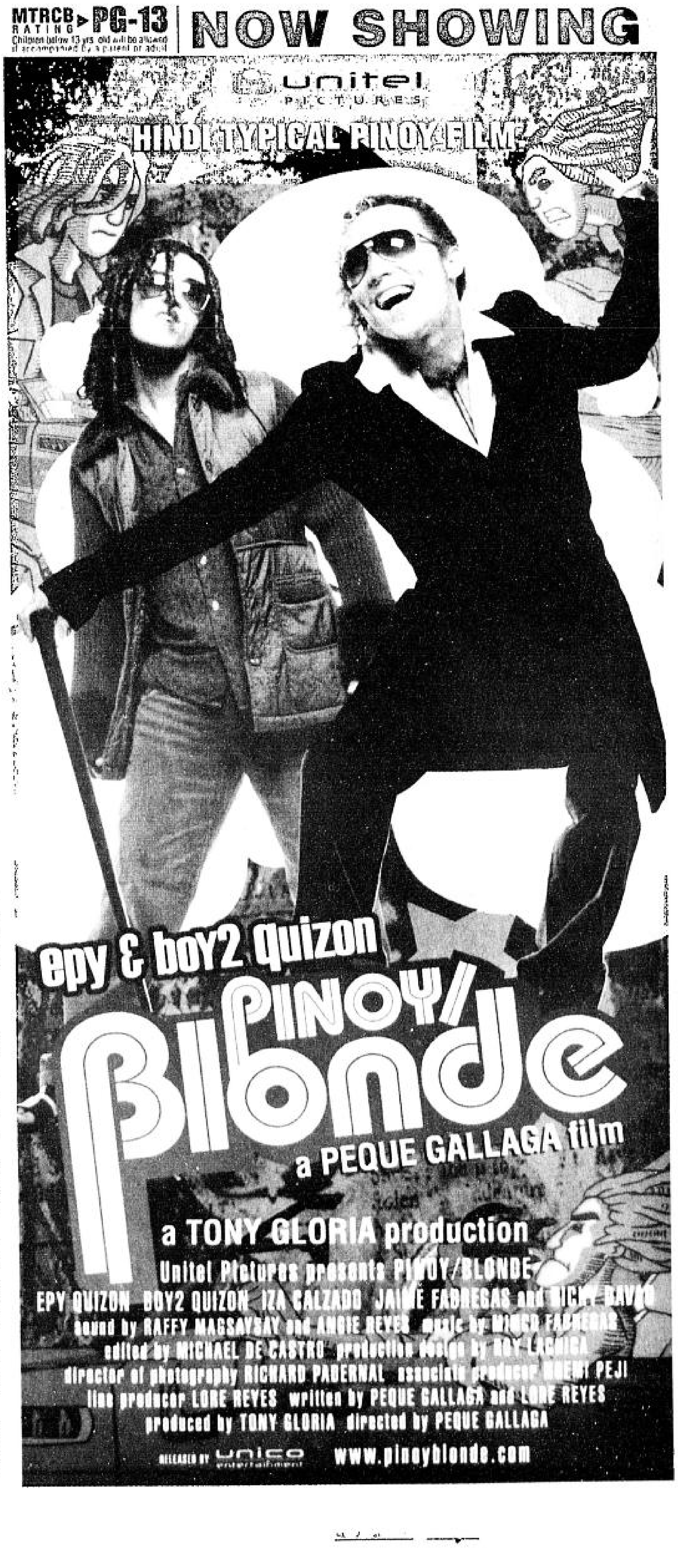
The all-important support given by the production's creative department heads—Leo Rialp, Jun Murillo, Dennis Marasigan—who enhanced the musical with their artistry and experience.

The standing ovations that the musical got during its initial seven-performance run at the CCP were for all of these exceptional talents—and more.

Best of all, they were for the loving, healing *Birhen ng* Caysasay and her son, Jesus Christ, for whom the entire production was conceptualized and mounted.

The musical pays tribute to Our Lady. —*Ave*, Maria!

(For inquiries about the musical's provincial tour, sponsorships, etc., call 781-5918, or email orlina@pldtdsl.net.)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Robbie Tan is indie filmfest's unsung hero

By Rica Arevalo

WHO would have thought that Cinemalaya's filmmakers would be rubbing elbows with Seiko's top honcho, Robbie Tan? It is uncommon knowledge that Tan took time out of his busy schedule to monitor the progress of the finalists' debuting entries. From pre-production to premiere screenings, Robbie has been supporting the new filmmakers' journey.

Mainstream

Writer-producer Coreen Jimenez says, "Seiko Films is part of the mainstream, and I thought that Robbie would be playing a minimal role during the whole process. But, he surprised all of us. *Iba ang suporta niya sa* 'Big Time.' Without him, we wouldn't have had Winston Elizalde, who is the heart of the movie!"

Director Mario Cornejo adds, "He took his monitoring role seriously. I call him the 'Champion of the Cinemalaya Indies,' *dahil bawat reklamo at kibot ng mga* finalists, he was quick to say: 'I will try my best.' And more often than not, he followed through!"

TAN. Practical insights and suggestions.

"Room Boy's" auteur Aloy Adlawan says, "He was concerned with the progress of my film. He would call even when I was on the set to check on things. I got Ynez Veneracion because of him."

"Lasponggols'" Sigfreid Sanchez comments, "When I started showing my film's rushes, I was relieved that he appreciated them. I've worked with him before. *Hindi sinungaling si* Robbie *kapag sinabi niya na gusto niya ang pelikula mo, totoo yun.*"

Byron Bryant, director of "Baryoke" thinks: "Robbie is becoming an important player in the current surge on the digital filmmaking. *Hindi madamot si* Robbie with encouragement."

Doy del Mundo adds, "Robbie helped us get a reasonable deal with music companies. I used a lot of '70s songs in 'Pepot Artista.' Thanks to him, we got the deals we could afford!"

Raymond Lee, producer of "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" and "Sarong Banggi" remarks, "He kept us grounded with his practical insights and suggestions. He often played the devil's advocate and kept us from being complacent."

Red tape

"It's not hard to admit that things became easier because we were working with someone who was a filmmaker himself. He cut down the red tape that came with the process," says Emman dela Cruz.

"Isnats" director Miguel Pancho says: *"May kakulitan siya sa pagpa-*follow-up. *Pero, na-*appreciate *ko yon kasi* sincere *at* passionate *siya. Gamay niya ang gusto ng* audience. *Nakakatuwa na may oras siya na makipagbalitaktakan sa iyo tungkol sa pelikula mo!"*

Take a well-deserved bow, Mr. Tan!

I've had it with car chases!

By Behn Cervantes

I THOROUGHLY enjoyed "Batman Begins." I was also captivated by Steven Spielberg's "War of the Worlds." In the past, I was thrilled by the action series that starred Sean Connery, Mel Gibson, Bruce Willis and Matt Damon.

No doubt, if you want escapist entertainment, you can spend a good two hours watching those bigger-than-life heroes ward off villains, and come out relatively unscathed.

Heroism

As an ordinary mortal with feet of clay, you certainly empathize with their unimaginable heroism because, deep down, who doesn't want to be a crime buster like Bond or Bourne? Think what you could do in the Philippines, right?

Trouble is, when these movies succeed, sequels follow. Unfortunately, sequels often just repeat what their predecessors have done, hoping for the same profitable results!

I am particularly tired of those lengthy and noisy car chases! After "The French Connection," how much more of the same do we need?

How did those heroes become such expert drivers? They weave their cars through snarling traffic, and skid on sidewalks where pedestrians and tourists are window-shopping. Nevertheless, they leave no dead bodies behind—except for those darn crooks, of course!

Disbelief

I have had it with fruit stands being smashed, and store windows being run into! I can no longer suspend my disbelief because it has become exceedingly impossible for a speeding car *not* to hit any pedestrian!

At least, Batman has a tank that passes for a car—the contraption smashes through iron fences, goes through cement walls, and flies. Enough, already!

Excitement must be founded on personal conflict. So, to me, the most compelling scenes in "War of the Worlds" were those involving Dakota Fanning, a 10-year-old girl struggling to understand the evil force that threatened her loved ones' lives and home.

Markova is reborn in CCP's 'Virgin Labfest'

(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) Lou Veloso, Paulo Cabanero, Justo C. Justo and "Comfort Gay" Walterina Markova.

By Rito P. Asilo

RECENTLY, we watched with great fascination the SRO staging of untried and untested works by some of the country's top and most promising playwrights, in "The Virgin Labfest," a theater festival that aims to encourage Filipino playwrights to create new works and define new perspectives in contemporary Philippine drama. The festival was sponsored by CCP, Tanghalang Pilipino and Writers Bloc.

We have been involved in theater for a good number of years now, and we are aware of the difficulties that producers and theater practitioners go through to practice their much-neglected art.

Initiative

In fact, we acted in a playwright's initiative spearheaded by NUT at the Sta. Ana Arts Center early last year, and we still remember how successful those performances went. The showcase featured the one-act scripts of Abigael Malonzo, Rey Manalo and Jeanne Lim.

So, we salute endeavors like the "Virgin" fringe theater festival to showcase eight remarkable plays, many of them written and directed by promising theater artists we've worked with in the past—young and promising thespians who deserve the spotlight:

John Victor Villareal, who directed "Anatomiya ng Pag-ibig," was our student at a New Voice workshop; Tuxqs Rutaquio is an upcoming production designer who designed the set of NVC's "The Blue Room" recently; Sigrid Andrea Bernardo, director of "Sister-Out-Law," is a brilliant comedienne, and a filmmaker who has an entry in Cinemalaya, etc.

Fictionalized retelling

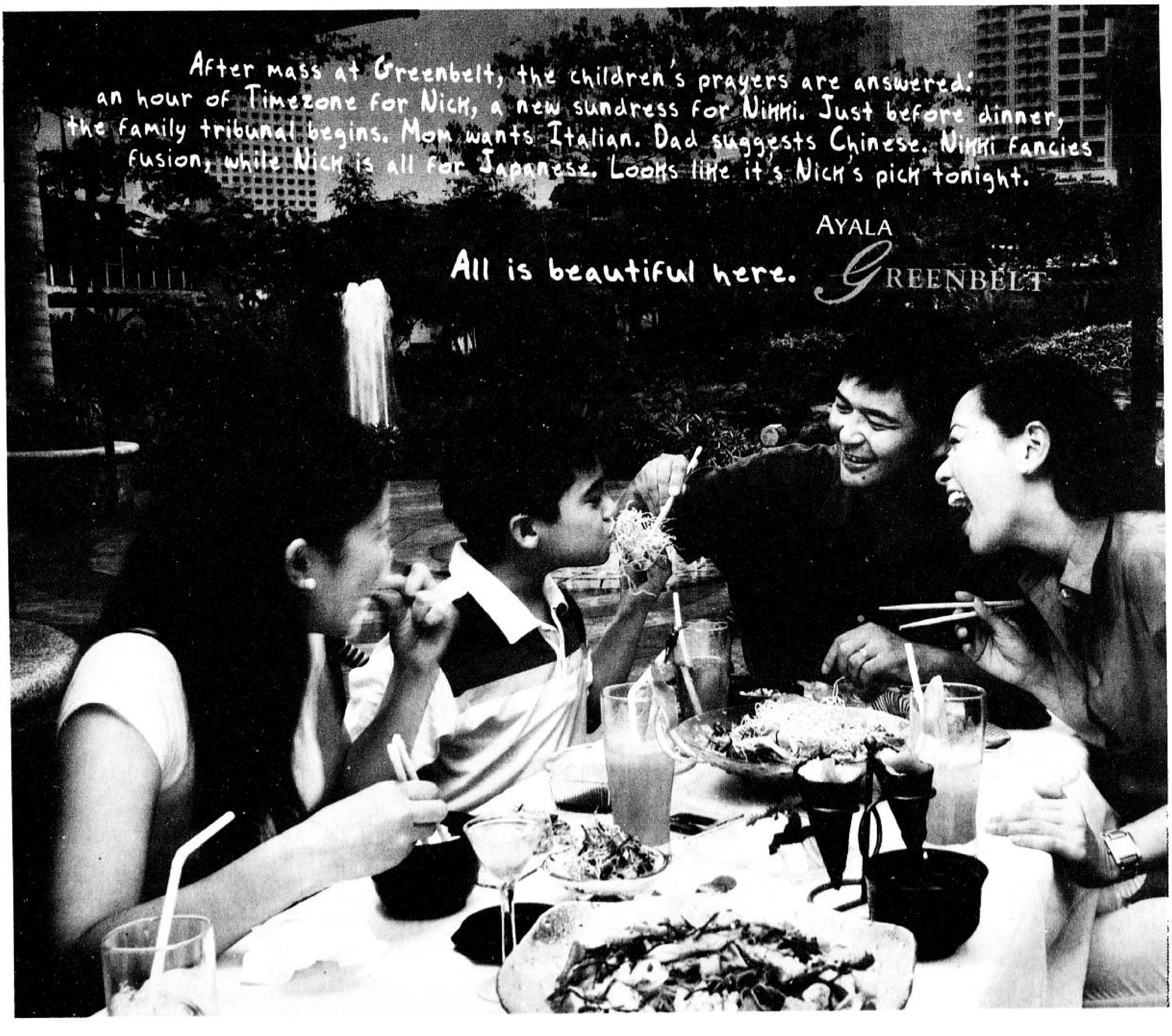
But, what really caught our fancy was J. Dennis Teodosio's hilarious, thematically-provocative, and brilliantly-acted "Gee-gee at Waterina," directed by Rooback Valle, a fictionalized retelling of Markova, the "comfort gay" who was portrayed by Dolphy and his talented sons in the award-winning Metro Manila filmfest entry some years ago—artistically "masked" here as Waterina—after he receives the fee for the copyright of his colorful life story. Now *that* production packed an emotional wallop—a feather in the thespic caps of Lou Veloso (who portrayed Waterina, the Markova-like character) and Paulo Cabanero (who played Gee-gee, the Justo Justo character).

As Waterina looks at the check, he asks: *"Yong mga manonood ng pelikula ng buhay ko, matatawa kaya sila, o maiiyak? Maaawa o hahanga? Ano kaya ako sa kanila? Matandang bakla? Gano'n lang?"*

Morality

But, Teodosio's script posed more than just questions about self-worth, it also delved into sexual discrimination and identity, and finding morality in these amoral times. The acclaimed production will soon be restaged.

Call 0921 281-8248.



After mass at Greenbelt, the children's prayers are answered: an hour of Timezone for Nick, a new sundress for Nikki. Just before dinner, the family tribunal begins. Mom wants Italian. Dad suggests Chinese. Nikki fancies fusion, while Nick is all for Japanese. Looks like it's Nick's pick tonight.
AYALA
All is beautiful here.
GREENBELT

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Big foreign banks turn bearish on RP

By Doris C. Dumlao

BIG foreign banks UBS and JP Morgan have turned bearish on the Philippines, lamenting that the much-lauded progress in the government's fiscal position could fizzle out amid the political turbulence.

And even if President Macapagal-Arroyo were removed from office, the two banks said in separate reports dated July 13 that Vice President Noli de Castro might be unable to flesh out tough economic reforms, thus narrowing the country's options down to a possible charter change (Cha-Cha).

In the report titled "Charting the Next Act for the Filipino Circus," JP Morgan analyst Sin Beng Ong said Cha-Cha could be the "least worse alternative" for the country.

"The cha-cha scenario, like the other scenarios, does not provide a decisive near-term solution but over the next 12 months offers a viable compromise for returning power to a popularly elected administration. However it is not likely to change the divisive nature of Filipino politics—for that to happen, more radical change would be necessary," Ong said.

UBS economist for Southeast Asia Christa Janjie said constitutional reform was an "interesting possibility" and if successful, would allow GMA to formally step down after early elections have been held and a new prime minister elected in Congress.

"The bottom line is whether Arroyo stays in or goes, in the current situation it will be very difficult for Philippine markets to perform well, at least in the near term," Janjie said in the report titled "What Happened to the Philippines?"

Fortunately for the country, however, she said a total fiscal breakdown was not likely due to strong built-in cushions such as the government's two to three months' worth of cash buffers, average long-term maturity of debts and sufficient foreign exchange reserves.

JP Morgan's Ong stressed the fiscal outlook for the Philippines had taken for the worse with the recent political uncertainty."

"It should be borne in mind that the value-added tax (VAT) measures form by far the largest share of the aggregate tax package and any delay could well lead to a further deterioration in the country's fiscal fundamentals," Ong said.

In an earlier report dated May 30, UBS said the Philippines had gone over the "hump" and laid the groundwork for a sustainable turnaround in fiscal dynamics. It had argued that the proof of the turnaround might be some time away, but the fiscal adjustment necessary to reduce the public sector debt ratio in the country could be one of the least costly adjustments among emerging markets.

JP Morgan Chase chair for Asia Pacific Ralph

BIG/ B3

But Bear Stearns still optimistic

By Michelle V. Remo

INVESTMENT bank Bear, Stearns & Co. Inc., expressing optimism over the new appointees to the Arroyo administration's economic team, has projected that the government could trim down its budget deficit by a significant margin to only P140 billion by year's end.

The US-based bank said the better-than-programmed deficit of P140 billion, if not lower, for 2005 would be possible if the Supreme Court lifts the suspension of the expanded value-added tax law in the next couple of weeks, a move which the bank said the high court was likely to take.

Bear Stearns explained in its latest paper on the Philippine economy that the deficit of P140 billion was achievable considering that the government's fiscal performance in the first half was much better than the target despite the fact that the VAT was not yet in the picture then.

The Department of Finance earlier reported that the national government's budget deficit for the first half stood at only P67.51 billion, or way below the target of P98.52 billion for the period.

The estimated P30-billion difference, if maintained in the second half, would bring the government's budget deficit to only P150 billion by the end of the year compared with the target of P180 billion without the help of the VAT, the bank said.

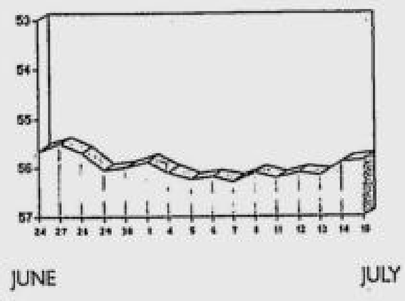
Should the VAT be in place, it added, the deficit this year would reach only a maximum of P140 billion.

The VAT, considered the cornerstone of the administration's fiscal reform program, basically expanded the coverage of the tax to include oil and electricity, and gave the President a standby authority to raise the rate from 10 to 12 percent next year. The Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order on the law's implementation following petitions filed by the opposition and petroleum dealers.

Expecting the TRO to be lifted soon, Bearn Stearns expressed confidence that the government would stay on track of its fiscal reform

BUT BEAR/ B2

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

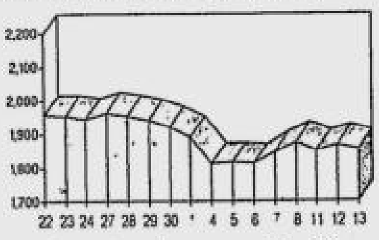
₱55.845 = $1
As of 5 p.m., July 15, 2005

¥111.14 = $1
As of 5 p.m., July 13, 2005

GOLD: $420.00-420.50
per ounce Hong Kong, July 15, 2005

July 15, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.827541	1.000000	55.9970
Japan	Yen	0.007368	0.008903	0.4985
United Kingdom	Pound	1.453906	1.756900	98.3811
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.106406	0.128581	7.2002
Switzerland	Franc	0.641405	0.775074	43.4018
Canada	Dollar	0.682846	0.825151	46.2060
Singapore	Dollar	0.490075	0.592207	33.1618
Australia	Dollar	0.622867	0.752672	42.1474
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.195126	2.652590	148.5371
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.220654	0.266638	14.9309
Brunei	Dollar	0.488628	0.590458	33.0639
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000084	0.000102	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.019786	0.023909	1.3388
UAE	Dirham	0.225340	0.272301	15.2480
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.208400	67.6668
Argentina	Peso	0.288593	0.348736	19.5282
Brazil	Real	0.354028	0.427807	23.9559
Denmark	Kroner	0.134110	0.162059	9.0748
India	Rupee	0.019033	0.022999	1.2879
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.217786	0.263172	14.7368
Mexico	New Peso	0.077632	0.093810	5.2531
New Zealand	Dollar	0.559187	0.675721	37.8383
Norway	Kroner	0.125952	0.152200	8.5227
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013887	0.016781	0.9397
South Africa	Rand	0.125395	0.151527	8.4851
Korea	Won	0.000803	0.000970	0.0543
Sweden	Kroner	0.106523	0.128722	7.2080
Syria	Pound	0.015942	0.019264	1.0787
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025986	0.031402	1.7584
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000386	0.000466	0.0261

Stocks rise as political tensions ease



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARE prices closed 0.94 percent higher yesterday as political tensions sparked by allegations of vote rigging against President Macapagal-Arroyo appeared to ease, at least for the moment, dealers said.

They said sentiment also got a boost from figures showing the government had a budget surplus in June, a key issue for Ms Arroyo as she struggles to hold onto power.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 17.62 points to 1,897.08 after trading between 1,879.46 and 1,899.99 points. Turnover was 729.4 million shares worth P2.3 billion.

The broader all-shares index closed up 10.12 points at 1,158.09.

Gainers beat losers 67 to nine, with 38 stocks unchanged.

Ms Arroyo has been under attack in recent weeks over allegations that she cheated to win the May 2004 elections.

The fallout led to the resignation last week of 10 Cabinet members and senior officials and the defection of key allies who all urged Ms Arroyo to resign over the scandal.

The President, however, has refused to resign and welcomed opposition moves to impeach her. She has also appointed replacements for the officials and vowed to push through with her government's programs.

"The President is projecting that while there has been some interruption in terms of economic reforms, the government is now back in business," said Ron Rodrigo of Accord Capital Equities.

"Foreign investors and market players are becoming increasingly convinced that at face value, we will not see anybody in fatigues (a military official) heading the government," James Lago of Westlink Global Equities Inc., said.

"But on whether the market treks higher from here is hard to say. We're still living in trying times." SM Investments was the most active stock, gaining P7 to P239. Second top-traded Philippine Long Distance Telephone fell P15 to P1,525.

Financial markets were lifted early yesterday by expectations the Supreme Court would lift its freeze on a tax expansion at the heart of the government's fiscal reform plans.

The Supreme Court has said it would issue a final ruling on whether the expanded sales tax was constitutional within the month. *AFP, Reuters*

OVERSEAS Filipino Workers arrive from Kuwait. The number of OFWS rose 3.8 percent in May this year, contributing to the 27-percent rise in remittances sent through the banking system to $879 million.

PDI PHOTO

OFW remittances surged 19.2% in January-May

DOLLARS sent home by the country's migrant workers through the banking system rose by 26.8 percent in May to $879 million from a year ago, boosted by seasonal inflows for the new schoolyear.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday announced that the sustained growth of overseas Filipino workers' (OFW) remittances in May brought the five-month inflows to $3.95 billion or 19.2 percent better than the year-ago level of $3.3 billion.

"The strong remittances were traced to the increase in the number of OFWs, deployment of higher-paid professionals, as well as greater access by OFWs to remittance channels of the banking system," Tetangco said.

Citing preliminary data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Tetangco said deployment of migrant workers rose by 3.8 percent to 431,165.

Classified by type, deployed land-based workers went up by 2.6 percent to 326,806 while the number of sea-based workers grew by 7.6 percent to reach 104,359 during the period.

"The continued preference and demand for Filipino workers by labor-importing countries supported the level of remittances during the review period," Tetangco said.

"Filipino workers are preferred owing to their trainability, competence and high level of professionalism," he said.

The country's strict adherence to international standards for mariners likewise contributed to increased demand by offshore employers.

The United States, Saudi Arabia, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates remained as the major sources of remittances.

"Moreover, the deployment of higher-paid Filipino professionals and technical staff, skilled production workers, health and food service personnel contributed further to the marked increase in the level of remittances," Tetangco said. *Doris C. Dumlao*

WHAT'S INSIDE

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Sy unfazed by political turmoil

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SM INVESTMENTS Corp., the flagship holding company of retail tycoon Henry Sy Sr., is unfazed by political uncertainties and determined to push through with its expansion program.

Henry Sy Jr., co-vice chair of SMIC, said in a briefing yesterday that the SM group was setting aside a two-year budget of P16 billion for its retail and banking subsidiaries.

"Our expansion into the mall areas has been defined two to three years ago. So going forward, we are not delaying any of our projects," Sy said.

Of the P8 billion SMIC set aside for this year, P5 billion will go to mall expansion and the rest to retail and banking operations.

The same amount is set aside for next year, chief finance officer Jose Sio said yesterday.

SMIC mall operator subsidiary, SM Prime Holdings Inc., recently opened its 20th mall at San Lazaro in Manila covering 179,000 square meters.

This will be followed by a mall in Valenzuela in October, and another in Molino in Bacoor, Cavite by November.

SM Molino sits on 4.8 hectares of land with a gross floor area of 48,248 square meters.

It will also open its largest mall, dubbed "The Mall of Asia."

Mall of Asia covers 19.5 hectares and has a gross floor area of 454,000 square meters.

Sy, meanwhile, said SMIC would also embark on a major leisure project in Nasugbu, Batangas, called Hamilo Cove. The residential resort project sits on more than 5,000 hectares of land.

Sy said SMIC would spend roughly P2 billion to P3 billion to develop the initial phase of the project that covers around 1,000 hectares.

The initial phase includes sports facilities and a beach club. Sy said Hamilo Cove would have a residential component that would include a hotel, condominiums and villas, which would be undertaken by its property development arm, SM Development Corp.

Construction of the first phase will start next year.

Meanwhile, Sy also said his family was expanding overseas with the opening of two malls in China this year.

Two malls will be opened in China, one in Gingiang by December, and another in Chengdu by June next year.

SMIC reported a net income of P5.35 billion for March, 31 percent higher than last year's net income of P4.080 billion.

Topsy-turvy politics dim RP peso outlook

NEW YORK—Shaky politics and a sputtering economy in the Philippines have dimmed the outlook for its peso currency, analysts say.

The Philippine peso has lost roughly 4 percent of its value against the dollar since the beginning of May mostly due to political uncertainty.

Embattled President Macapagal-Arroyo, a US-educated economist and daughter of a late president, is facing allegations of fraud in last year's elections.

Two of her family members are alleged to have taken bribes from illegal gambling operatives.

Ms Arroyo has rejected calls to step down and dared her opponents to impeach her.

Analysts say prospects for the currency are expected to become bleaker over the next few months as the political situation unravels.

Short-term risks

To stem the peso's weakness against the dollar, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has had to raise reserve requirements for local banks by 2 percentage points, to 21 percent.

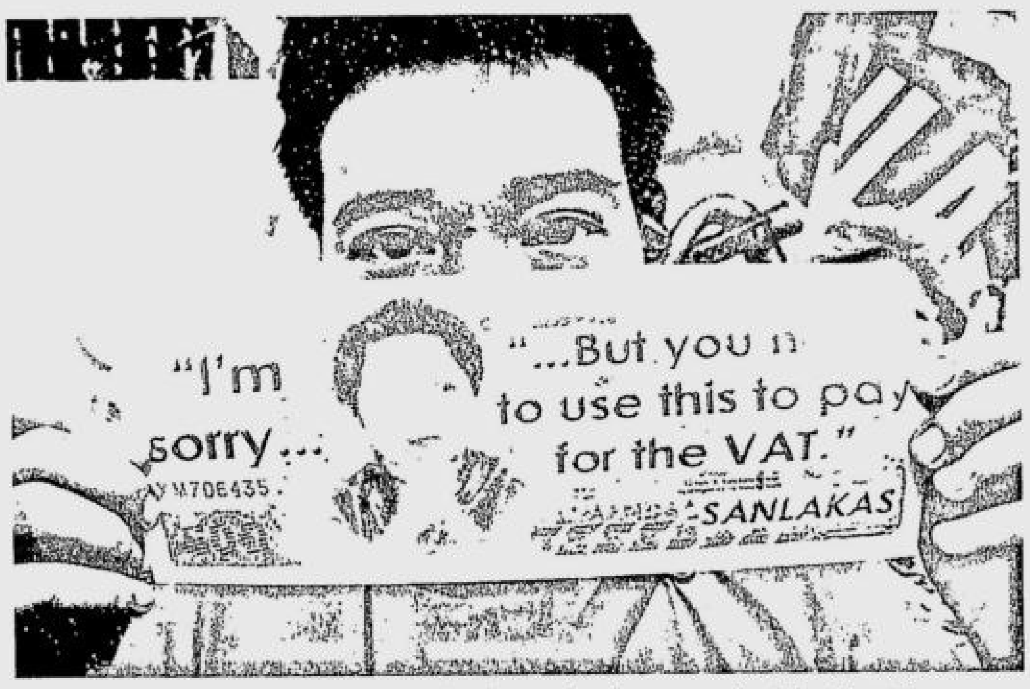
The move, aimed at increasing demand for the peso, would siphon off P32 billion (about $570 million) in excess liquidity.

But the peso's survival probably requires more than central bank action, analysts say.

"There is little to suggest that the Philippine peso will be able to buck the strengthening of the US dollar in the near term," said Clyde Wardle, emerging market currency strategist at HSBC Bank USA in New York.

"Short term, we see risks in the peso associated with the political uncertainty. Also, the fiscal outlook looks highly uncertain. So those two conspire to make investors rather nervous," he added.

Some analysts predict the peso could depreciate by as much as 10 percent to 15 percent if the political situation worsens.



A PROTESTER holds a replica of a peso bank note showing a portrait of President Arroyo during a protest in front of the Supreme Court in Manila. The peso has lost roughly 4 percent of its value against the dollar since the beginning of May mostly due to political uncertainty. AFP

"We can envision levels above 60 before the end of the year and in the mid- to high 60s in 2005 if Ms Arroyo's departure creates even more instability," the Royal Bank of Scotland said in a research note.

Economic woes

This is not the first time a Philippine president has come under siege.

The late President Ferdinand Marcos was ousted in 1986 by a "people power" revolt and replaced by Corazon Aquino.

In 2001, former President Joseph Estrada, plagued by allegations of graft and corruption, was also forced out of office.

He was replaced by then Vice President Arroyo, whose father, Diosdado Macapagal, was president from 1961 to 1965.

The peso has always borne the brunt of political instability in the Philippines.

In the run-up to Estrada's ouster in 2001, the peso had weakened 7.6 percent against the dollar during seven trading sessions, according to analysts.

The picture isn't any more pleasant on the economic front.

The Supreme Court decided to freeze an expanded value-added tax (VAT), a sales tax that is at the center of Ms Arroyo's program to ease the country's fiscal deficit.

Sailesh Jha, research analyst at Credit Suisse First Boston in Singapore, said that every month implementation of the VAT bill is delayed, about P4 billion to P5 billion (about $90 million) in tax revenues are lost.

"If the VAT bills are not passed in 2005, our P28-P30 billion (roughly $536 million) in additional tax revenues this year becomes a figment of our imagination. Our fiscal deficit forecast of 3 percent of GDP (gross domestic product) may be too optimistic and may track ... 3.5 percent of GDP," Jha said.

Rally possible?

Sean Callow, senior currency strategist at Westpac Banking Corp. in New York, said the peso could rally against the dollar if Ms Arroyo stays in office.

"If her political opponents backed off their push for impeachment, I think that would be regarded well in the international community. A change in government mid-stream would be a worst-case scenario for the Philippines. The perception internationally is that there is no fantastically strong leader waiting to take over," Callow said.

Vice President Noli de Castro, a former television journalist, is expected to take over as president if Ms Arroyo resigns.

However, De Castro is viewed as a political novice, with not much support from the Philippine business elite. *Reuters*

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Saturday, July 23, 2005, 8:00 AM to 12:00 NN, ALIW Theater, CCP Complex

Who should attend this seminar?
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What is this seminar about?
Supremely practical, this seminar is about strategies that help you effectively transform your dreams into reality by building up your people. Emphasizing that your organization can't grow unless its members grow, Dr. John Maxwell encourages you to identify and train potential leaders. You'll learn how to foster productive team spirit, make difficult decisions, what to look for in promising leaders, ways to nurture, encourage and equip people, how to handle confrontation and much more.

WINNING WITH PEOPLE
Saturday, July 23, 2005, 1:30 PM to 5:30 PM, ALIW Theater, CCP Complex

Who should attend this seminar?
CEOs, Senior Management, business owners and entrepreneurs, government officials and leaders.

What is this seminar about?
Successful CEOs, entrepreneurs, top salespeople all agree: the characteristic most needed for success in leadership positions is the ability to work with people

Some people are born with great relationship skills, but those who are not can learn to improve them. In Winning With People, John Maxwell has translated decades of experience into People Principles that anyone can learn.

Some principles are intuitive, such as the Lens Principle: Who We Are Determines How We See Others. Others principles may go against your instincts, such as The Confrontation Principle: Caring For People Should Precede Confronting People. All of them are 100% practical!

For inquiries and ticket reservations, please visit johnmaxwell.emjen.org or call 885-7049 (free delivery). Tickets are also available at all SM-Ticketnet outlets located at the SM Department Store Customer Service area and at the Araneta Coliseum ticket booths. For inquiries and reservations, please call 911-5555.

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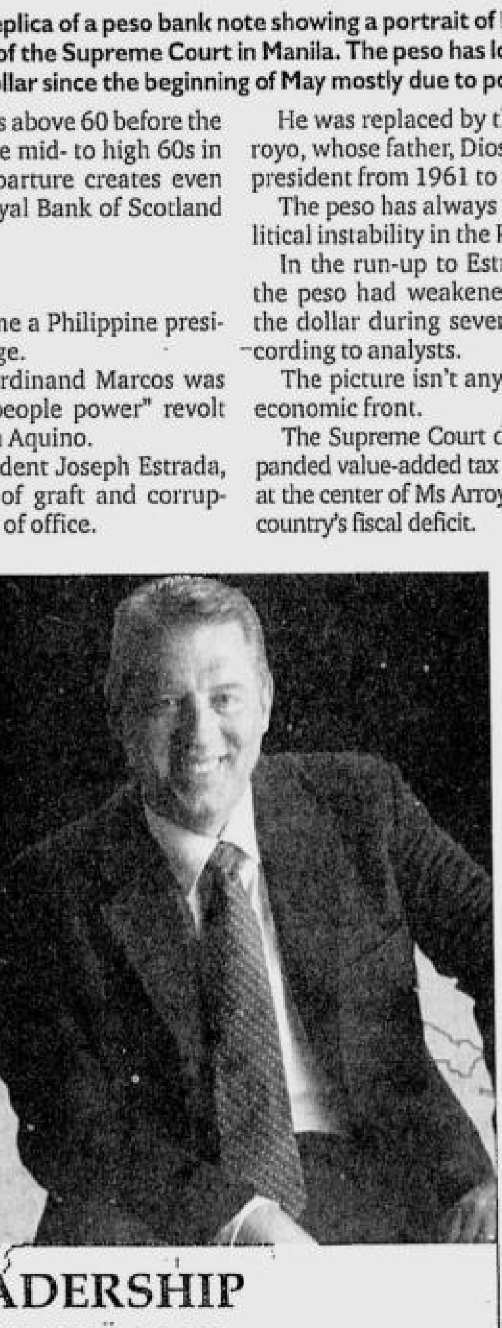

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 15, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	18,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	32	32	31	31.5	217,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	49.5	49.5	48.5	49.5	730,900
China Banking Corp.	760	760	750	750	780
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	600
Export And Ind. Bank Inc.	0.52	0.54	0.52	0.54	840,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	50.5	51.5	50.5	51.5	257,700
International Exch. Bank	18.75	19	18.75	19	216,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28	27.5	27.5	813,800
Philippine National Bank	41.5	42.5	41.5	42.5	12,500
Security Bank Corp.	26	26	26	26	103,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	29.5	29.5	29	29	11,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2760	2760	2760	2760	10
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	300,000
Sun Life Financial Inc	1945	1970	1945	1970	1,930
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	12.5	12.75	12.25	12.25	31,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.02	1.04	1	1.04	2,142,000
Globe Telecom Inc	820	835	820	835	11,020
Ipeople Inc.	3.95	3.95	3.9	3.95	32,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.049	0.05	0.049	0.05	1,400,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	15,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.65	2.7	3,077,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1550	1550	1525	1525	265,060
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	3,000,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.5	14.75	14.5	14.5	99,000
Manila Electric Co. B	23.5	25	23.5	24.25	1,973,700
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.5	6.3	6.5	3,634,000
Petron Corp.	3	3	2.95	2.95	2,044,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	333,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	2,895,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	50,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	50,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	200,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	2.7	3	2.7	3	2,509,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	200,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	55,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	12,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29.5	30	29.5	30	52,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	31	31.5	31	31.5	471,400
Pancake House Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	1,000
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	400,000
San Miguel Corp. A	61	61.5	61	61	33,800
San Miguel Corp. B	94	94	93	94	89,800
Universal Robina Corp.	16	16.25	16	16.25	1,100
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	6	6	6	6	5,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	41,000,000
Ayala Corp.	295	302.5	295	302.5	109,680
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.9	4.95	4.8	4.9	74,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.025	0.023	0.025	17,800,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.8	1.82	1.8	1.8	773,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	65,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.58	0.67	0.58	0.65	3,310,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	380,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.04	13,720,000
Basic Consolidated Inc	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	50,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	310,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.24	360,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.36	2.38	2.34	2.34	1,058,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.06	300,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.3	681,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	40.5	41	40	40.5	5,670,500
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.075	0.0725	0.075	6,400,000
House Of Investments Inc.	1	1	1	1	20,000
Ionics Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	24,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	3.3	3.3	3.25	3.3	820,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.8	1.82	1.8	1.82	325,000
Medco Holdings	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.24	1.28	1.24	1.24	4,989,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	590,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33	16,290,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	10,000
SM Investments Corp.	232	239	228	238	2,623,380
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.155	1,180,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.19	0.195	0.19	0.195	300,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.82	0.82	0.65	0.65	60,000
Macondray Plastics Inc.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	5,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.46	1.48	1.46	1.46	67,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	10,000
Picop Resources Inc	0.085	0.095	0.085	0.095	700,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.93	0.94	0.92	0.93	14,220,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	7.4	7.4	5	5	9,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.12	1,647,000
Manila Jockey Club	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	20,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	50,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	12	12.5	12	12.25	1,314,900
PLDT 10% Pref Series AA	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	9,100
PLDT 10% Pref Series BB	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.6	21,681,000
Cebu Holdings Inc	0.85	0.86	0.85	0.86	660,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.245	0.245	0.24	0.24	800,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	3,560,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.38	1.42	1.38	1.4	11,981,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.175	0.18	0.175	0.18	500,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.43	690,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	200,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc	7.1	7.2	7	7.1	39,686,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	22,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	4.75	4.9	4.7	4.8	415,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	5,140,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.32	0.34	0.32	0.34	8,810,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	170,400,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.019	0.02	0.019	0.02	73,700,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.006	0.0055	0.006	48,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	20,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.89	0.9	0.88	0.9	7,190,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	29.5	30	29.5	29.5	930,100
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	200,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	29,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	21,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	10,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	5,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	1,000,000
	SHARES				**VALUE(P)**
Bank & Fin Svc	3,524,120				91,301,250.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	227,472,440				1,513,892,765.00
PRO	104,166,000				637,733,970.00
Mining	336,805,100				45,070,400.00
OIL	51,015,000				476,850.00
SME	6,279,000				28,256,000.00
GRAND TOTALS	729,261,660				2,316,731,235.00
	AVERAGES				
Bank & Fin Svc	555.90				UP 4.52
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,992.09				UP 19.01
PRO	681.21				UP 17.56
Mining	2,628.80				UP 137.87
OIL	2.55				UP 0.09
SME	100.00				UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	1,158.09				UP 10.12
Composite	1,897.08				UP 17.62

NO. OF ADVANCES: 67; NO. OF DECLINES: 9; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 38; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 114; NO. OF TRADES 3,654

DISCLOSURES

GLOBE Telecom Inc. announced that Moody's Investor Service had upgraded the company's senior unsecured foreign currency debt rating from positive to negative.

* * *

ZIPPORAH Realty Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 5, 4 p.m., at the Roces Room, Club Filipino, Eisenhower Street cor. Club Filipino Avenue, Greenhills, San Juan. Stockholders of record as of July 8 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

ABRA Mining and Industrial Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 26, 8 a.m., at the main office Barangay Lipcan, Bangued, Abra. Stockholders of record as of July 29 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

IMPERIAL Resources Inc. elected as directors Oliverio Laperal, Desiderio Laperal, Vicente Acsay, Vilma Villanueva and Celinia Timbre. Reelected as independent directors were Macrobio Lim and Victorio Amante.

Compiled by Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research

But Bear Stearns ...

From page B1

agenda despite the resignation of key economic officials last July 8. It noted the optimism of investors on their capability to maintain the positive momentum on the fiscal front.

"President Arroyo's prompt action in making these appointments has been well received by the market and contributed to a modest recovery of the currency, stock and bond markets," the bank said.

Bear Stearns cited in particular newly appointed Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, whose assignment to the finance portfolio was warmly welcomed by the business community.

"We are delighted that Secretary Teves has made such a firm commitment to getting VAT reform back on track and, until that is done, continuing to increase the tax take, which the Bureau of Internal Revenue has been successfully accomplishing this year," Bear Stearns said.

The bank also said the designation of Jose Mario Buñag and Alexander Arevalo as officers in charge of the BIR and the Bureau of Customs would not disrupt the programs of the two agencies in the area of increasing revenue collection. The two officials were former deputy commissioners of their respective offices.

Teves replaced former Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima. Buñag and Arevalo took over the place of Guillermo Parayno Jr. and Alberto Lina.

Big foreign banks turn bearish on RP

From page B1

Parks, in a visit to the country last month, had also said the bank's bullish prospects for the country far outweighed the political noises rocking the Arroyo administration.

UBS noted that what originally seemed to be a minor political scandal suddenly took on a considerable momentum.

"The current vice president, Noli de Castro, is a relatively untested quantity; he's an ex-broadcaster and hasn't held political office before, which means that he doesn't really have an institutional support base," the UBS economist said.

"He also has an outstanding legal case against him, filed by an opponent in the VP race, so he would presumably also have to convince the populace that he is qualified to lead. All of this makes it unlikely that he would make a strong push for economic reforms," she said.

JP Morgan's Ong agreed that even if the President resigned, De Castro was not expected to enjoy a strong political mandate.

The analyst noted that when GMA was swept to power with the ouster of former President Estrada, she did not have an easy time as manifested by the Oakwood mutiny and sporadic episodes of public unrest.

"Thus, in remains unclear that it would all be plain-sailing for Noli de Castro should he succeed the current president, especially if he does not enjoy the indirect mandate of people power," Ong said.

Ong said the least worse scenario would be one that would provide a mandate for the political executive to implement fiscal reforms.

"Thus, the constitutional scenario of impeachment or of resignation of the current president would likely not provide the vice-president the political flexibility to implement what are likely to be unpopular changes," Ong said.

"Furthermore, should the current president continue in office, her medium-term mandate is expected to be damaged and thus could effectively lead to a lameduck presidency," the JP Morgan analyst added.

The UBS report said that for as long as the VAT law was suspended, there was not any bullish case for the government budget or for Philippine assets.

In case it would be struck down by the Supreme Court, Janjie said the government could go back and push for the version without questionable provisions but not with ease.

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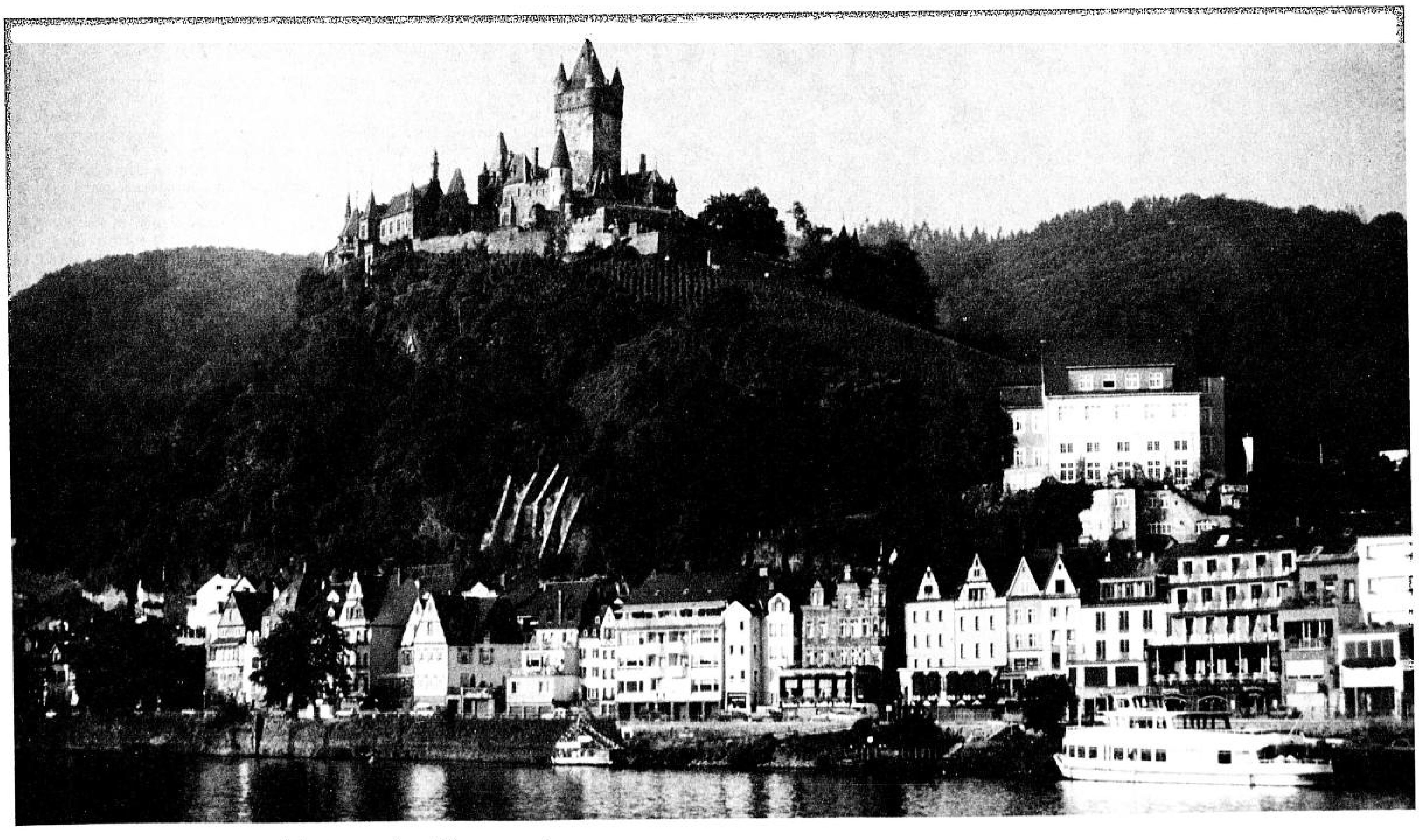

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BIRD FLU

Chicken, duck safe to eat, says expert

By Charles E. Buban

CHICKEN and other poultry dishes should not be deleted from the menu despite the recent discovery of a "low-risk" bird flu virus strain at a duck farm in Calumpit, Bulacan.

"It should pose no threat to diners as there is no evidence the H5 virus found [in at least three ducks at the farm] is infectious to people," says Dr. Luningning Elio Villa, program manager of the Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases Unit of the Department of Health.

She says one cannot contract bird flu by eating the cooked meat of an infected chicken.

"The virus is not food-borne and there has never been a case of a human contracting bird flu from food," she says.

Villa says the virus typically stays in the chicken's gut, and a person would have to dry out the part and sniff the carcass to be at any risk. Even then, it would be very difficult to become infected.

"But just to be in the safe side, make sure your chicken dish is well cooked," advises Villa.

Transmission

Villa says people catch the virus through close contact with live infected birds.

She says people working in poultry farms or who are in close contact with infected poultry, like those in a market, should be careful because they are more likely to inhale the dried and pulverized droppings, saliva and nasal secretions that may contain the bird flu virus.

"They may also get infected if these particles get into their eyes," warns Villa.

She says infected migratory birds are natural carriers of bird flu viruses.

"Since the Philippines is one of their so-called stopovers, these infected birds may shed the virus in their droppings, saliva and nasal secretions," she says.

Domestic poultry become infected from contact with these birds or with contaminated water, feed or soil.

Symptoms

In humans, bird flu symptoms are similar to other types of flu, which include fever, malaise, sore throat and cough. People can also develop conjunctivitis.

"But bird flu can lead to life-threatening complications," says Villa.

Although it is not yet clear if the H5 strain found in the Calumpit ducks is different from the more deadly H5N1 strain, Villa says there is no sign of transmission and no ducks have died in the farm. A deadly form of bird flu would have caused severe epidemics and mass deaths in the farm.

Blood samples from the farm have been sent to Australia to determine whether the bird flu strain here is related to the one that caused human fatalities elsewhere in the region.

Multipronged strategy

In Kuala Lumpur last week, United Nations agencies and health experts unveiled a multipronged strategy against bird flu, calling on Asian governments to overhaul backyard farming practices and vaccinate poultry to prevent the disease from becoming a human pandemic.

The UN plan focuses on educating small-time farmers and their families about the risk of living in close proximity with animals, and of combining various species such as chickens, ducks and pigs in one enclosure.

Health experts say such practices increase the danger of the avian flu virus moving from one species to another and possibly mutating into a new strain more easily transmitted between humans than the current H5N1 virus.

The virus currently appears to spread to people mainly when they come into close contact with sick poultry. Medical experts fear a mutated form could trigger a global pandemic.

The plan said governments should pursue the vaccination of poultry flocks in high-risk areas and reward farmers to encourage them to report suspected bird flu outbreaks and to practice safety measures. *With a report from AP*

A boy watches ducks at a farm in Calumpit, Bulacan. The Philippines suffered its first case of bird flu after three ducks in in the town were found to be infected. REUTERS

WHO prepares for bird flu pandemic

WORLD Health Organization scientist Hitoshi Oshitani spends his days planning for a nightmare scenario: a bird flu pandemic among humans that would kill millions and bring nations to their knees.

There is much that experts still do not know about the deadly H5N1 strain of avian influenza—exactly how humans contract it from infected poultry, and why so many of its victims are healthy youngsters.

But Oshitani says they do know vulnerable countries are ill-prepared and that if the virus mutates and erupts among humans in one of Asia's crowded mega-cities, it will be impossible to prevent it from becoming a pandemic.

Most bird flu victims have caught the disease from animals, but the fear is it will mutate into a form that can spread easily among humans, triggering a contagion that could kill tens of millions of people.

Oshitani says WHO experts are working on models to prevent a pandemic if an outbreak of the mutated virus is detected in time, but figuring out how to contain such a virulent disease is baffling them.

Measures being contemplated are treating infected people and surrounding communities with antiviral drugs, and restricting their movement to prevent others from getting the disease.

But if a deadly flu virus was being spread by people with no symptoms, whose movements could not be controlled, in a country that could not afford expensive medicines, halting an outbreak would be almost impossible, he says.

Drug stockpile

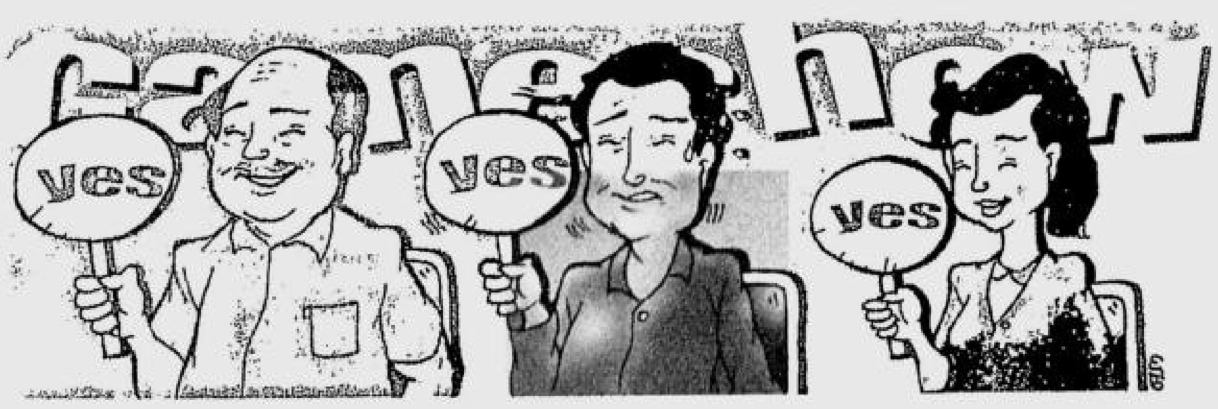
Oshitani says the WHO has a stockpile of 60,000-70,000 doses of antiviral drugs in its Manila regional office, but the logistics of getting them to a remote community in time to stop the disease would be difficult.

"Our window of opportunity will be just two or three weeks," he says. After that the virus would almost certainly have moved on.

And in teeming cities like Bangkok or Ho Chi Minh City, the sheer mass and movement of people would mean the virus would have to be allowed to run its course through the population.

Oshitani says there are worrying signs a mutation is looming. Growing numbers of people are being infected with bird flu: 64 cases have emerged in Asia so far this year, compared with 44 for the whole of 2004.

The disease is still circulating widely in the region, and the virus has continued to change and mutate since jumping to humans in 1997, when it killed six people in Hong Kong. *AFP*



Leaders and followers

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

WHILE conducting a series of experiments in the 1950s to determine the accuracy of people's visual judgments, psychologist Solomon Asch asked a group of participants to look at two cards and decide which of the lines on one card had the same length as the line on the reference card, and to say their answers out loud.

What the study's participants didn't know was that each group was made up of one participant and several "ringers" who were acting in collusion with the researchers. The true purpose of the study was not to check the volunteers' eyesight but rather to observe their responses to their fellow groupmates' behaviors.

The actual volunteer was always one of the last people to give his answers to ensure that he had heard the answers given by his groupmates.

Astonishing findings

Asch and his colleagues found to their astonishment that when the entire group deliberately gave the wrong answers, most of the study participants, sometimes with great hesitation, would agree with their selections at least once.

When asked about their answers afterwards, some participants said they had assumed their own answers were incorrect; some even blamed poor vision. Others said they had sided with the majority because they didn't want to stand out as the lone dissenter. And others said they could see that the lines selected by the group really did match those on the reference cards.

Asch's work remains one of the best examples of how social pressure can influence one's perceptions.

Why people bow to the majority, even when the majority is wrong, is one of the questions that arose from Asch's research, and one he never fully answered.

Answer to questions

Several decades later, psychiatrist Gregory Berns and his colleagues at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia attempted to provide a partial answer to the question. In the June 22 issue of the journal Biological Psychiatry, they reported their findings after using a variation of Asch's test and employing functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to examine how the participants' brains are affected during the decision-making process.

Asch theorized that social pressure affects the way people see things. To test the hypotheses, Berns et al. worked with a group of 32 participants and four actors. The actors mingled with each volunteer and went through the same introductory sessions with each one.

The participants looked at 3D figures on a computer screen and were asked to mentally rotate them to identify the figures that were alike. The participants did an individual practice round with the computer to establish baseline scores without any possible social influence present.

After the practice round, the actors left the room and the participant was moved to the fMRI scanner for the actual trials.

Participants played two rounds, once against the group of humans and once against computers to see if the answers were being biased by humans or by a majority vote. The computer screen with the figures also showed pictures of the five-person group (the participant and four actors).

The volunteers were told that the rest of the group was looking at the same figures and that their answers would appear onscreen after everyone had made up their minds.

The actors were asked to be unanimously right a third of the time, unanimously wrong a third of the time, and to have mixed answers for the remainder of each trial.

Cortices hard at work

Berns et al.'s results were similar to Asch's, but the fMRI images had more to offer: the researchers found that when the volunteers were consciously choosing one figure over another, the cortices associated with the act of mental rotation were hard at work.

When they considered the answers provided by the group, the cortices were less active and the front part of the brain became busier. When the volunteers agreed with the group, the parietal and occipital lobes in the posterior of the brain showed more activity.

And when they disagreed with the majority, the brain scans indicated that the amygdala, which portion of the brain is usually associated with emotion, was activated.

The results back Asch's hypothesis that people's perceptions are altered at a biological level when they succumb to peer pressure, though exactly how that happens and the extent of the alterations themselves remains fodder for future research.

They should also make people more aware of the decisions they make, to know when to bow to the majority, when to take a stand, and if these are truly their own say.

I wonder why

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

KIDS are naturally curious, and fortunately, unlike adults, most are not too shy to ask questions. Through the years, my 7-year-old son and his friends have been bombarding me with questions about animals, the weather, planets, and so on. Some queries I can tackle immediately, but other issues require more thought and even research.

I highly recommend the "I Wonder Why" series by Grolier. These attractively illustrated books on science, nature and our universe make learning fun. The language used is appropriate for grade schoolers, so parents and teachers can use the series to supplement classroom stuff.

Some of my son's favorite queries are:

Spiders are insects, aren't they?

No, an insect has three pairs of legs, and its body is divided into three parts: the head, the thorax and the abdomen. Though a spider looks like an insect, it is not. A spider has eight legs (not six). Its body has two parts (not three), because the head and the thorax are joined on the spider's body.

Can camels live for a year without water?

No, even the healthiest camel cannot last that long without water. Most camels can go for days without water. In fact, if they are lucky enough to find juicy plants, they can even last for weeks. But it has been discovered that when a camel does find water, it can gulp down a whopping 100 liters in as fast as 10 minutes! That is one thirsty camel. By the way, there are two kinds of camels: the Arabian camel has one hump, while the Bactrian camel of Asia has two.

Bird's egg

What is inside a bird's egg?

A bird's egg contains three things: a baby bird, of course, the yolk and the white. The yellow yolk serves as food for the baby bird. The egg white is also food, but it has an additional function: it protects the baby in emergencies, as when say, the egg falls. Because I know what is inside the egg, I must confess that I do not dare eat *balut*, however tasty my friends claim it to be.

Are expensive springy rubber shoes really worth the price?

This depends on how serious an athlete you are. Good shoes have springy rubber soles and little pockets of air. When you take a step, the rubber is squashed down, but if it is really springy, it should quickly spring back to its original size. In the process, you can bounce slightly higher and run slightly faster.

How high is the sky?

What we call sky is really part of our atmosphere, which is an invisible covering of air around the earth. The atmosphere is around 500 kilometers high. Oxygen in the atmosphere is essential to life, since humans need to breathe it to live. As far as we know, the earth is the only planet with enough oxygen to support our kind of life.

Singing whales

Is it true that whales sing?

Humpback whales have been found to sing to each other, but scientists cannot agree on the reasons for their songs. Perhaps whales sing to tell other whales good eating locations, perhaps the songs serve as mating calls, or perhaps they are just having fun. What we know is that the songs of the humpback whales can last for hours and that they can be heard hundreds of kilometers away.

Why does the moon change its shape all the time?

The moon does not really change its shape. What changes is the part of the moon lighted by the sun that we can see from earth. As the moon revolves around the earth, the sun lights it from different directions. Sometimes the bright sunlit side looks like it is growing, and at other times shrinking.

I wave my arms up and down, but I cannot fly. How do birds fly?

Birds fly by flapping their wings up and down, and they manage to go up into the air because they are lighter than humans. However, dieting is not the answer for those of us who wish to fly. Birds have hollow or very thin bones, and airplanes try to imitate them by making sure the materials used in construction are lightweight but strong. Going back to birds, flapping wings is tiring, so many birds conserve energy by gliding. They fly fast and then spread out their wings, relying on air currents to carry them far. By the way, a hummingbird is an aerial acrobat, since it can fly backward, sideways and upside down!

Those interested in the "I Wonder Why" series can contact Grolier at 640-7696, 628-4487, 0920-9061330, or 0917-8523285.

E-mail the author at blessbook@yahoo.com.

OIL WE NEED TO KNOW

Text and art by Lynett A. Villariba

Fat Facts 4

Nutritionists tell us that we need fats and oils to (1) **lubricate** our joints and intestines, (2) **strengthen** cell membranes, (3) **nourish** the skin, and (4) **restore** fat-soluble nutrients to the tissues.

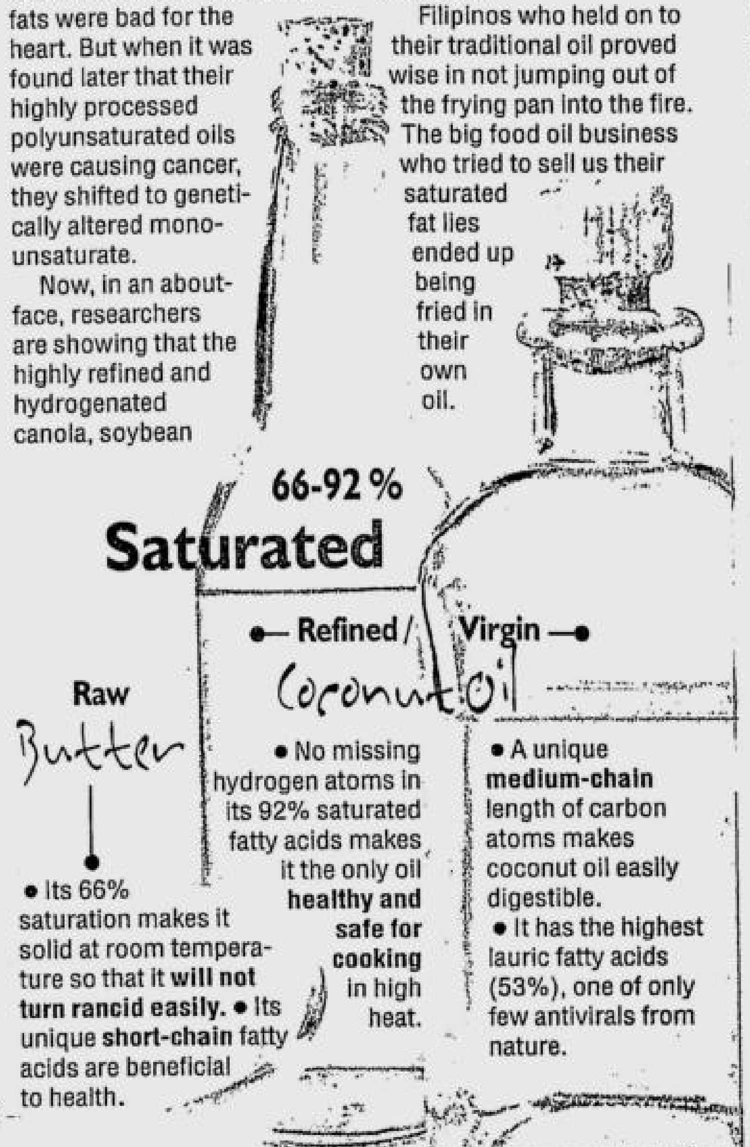
Food oil is made up of **fatty acids**—individual fat molecules whose length of carbon chain determine health properties. **Shorter-chain** fatty acids are more soluble and not stored as fats like **long-chain** fatty acids.

Saturation of hydrogen atoms in fat molecules gives oil stability and shelf life. Oxygen, heat and light cause **unsaturated** fatty acids to (1) turn rancid, (2) form trans fats, (3) create free radicals.

A generation ago, imported food oil producers made us believe that all saturated fats were bad for the heart. But when it was found later that their highly processed polyunsaturated oils were causing cancer, they shifted to genetically altered monounsaturate.

Now, in an about-face, researchers are showing that the highly refined and hydrogenated canola, soybean and corn oils were unhealthy, while finding coconut oil healthiest.

Filipinos who held on to their traditional oil proved wise in not jumping out of the frying pan into the fire. The big food oil business who tried to sell us their saturated fat lies ended up being fried in their own oil.



Raw Butter
- Its 66% saturation makes it solid at room temperature so that it **will not turn rancid easily.**
- Its unique **short-chain** fatty acids are beneficial to health.

Refined / Coconut Oil
- No missing hydrogen atoms in its 92% saturated fatty acids makes it the only oil **healthy and safe for cooking** in high heat.

Virgin Coconut Oil
- A unique **medium-chain** length of carbon atoms makes coconut oil easily digestible.
- It has the highest lauric fatty acids (53%), one of only few antivirals from nature.

Natural

Butter is produced by agitating **whole milk** from pasture-fed cows, goats or carabaos until fat rises to the top. The natural process churns out 66% saturated fat, including 12-15% short- and medium-chain fatty acids. Four-carbon antimicrobial butyric acid unique to butter, is found mostly in butterfat from cows. Six-carbon capric acid, an antifungal, is found mostly in butterfat from goats.

Traditional

Raw butter is a source of:
1) **fat-soluble vitamins** A, D, K and E which can survive the pasteurization process.
2) an **anti-stiffness compound** in raw butter that protects us from a) degenerative arthritism, b) hardening of the arteries, c) cataracts, and d) calcification of pineal gland.
3) a **powerful catalyst** (Activator X) that helps the body absorb and utilize minerals.
4) **short- and medium-chain fatty acids** that are antimicrobial, antitumor and immune system-healthy.
5) a balance of **omega-6 and omega-3** essential fatty acids in small but nearly equal amounts.
6) **conjugated linoleic acid** (CLA) from pasture-fed cows that has strong anticancer properties.
7) **lecithin** for the proper assimilation and metabolization of cholesterol and other fats.
8) **good cholesterol** for growth and development like that found in mother's milk that can protect against cancer, heart disease. It is when cholesterol gets oxidized in high heat that is bad.
9) **glycosphingolipids,** protects against gastrointestinal infections in the very young and the elderly, found in whole milk and lost in skimmed milk.
10) **trace minerals** –manganese, zinc, chromium and iodine, antioxidant selenium

Cold press/refined

Virgin coconut oil, extracted from fresh coconuts by natural cold-press and fermentation has Vitamin E and added nutrients.

Fresh coconut oil, expeller-pressed from coconut pulp without the use of chemicals, still retains valuable antimicrobial fatty acids to function as a healthy, safe oil for cooking.

Refined, bleached and deodorized oil (RBD), processed from copra in high heat, loses heat-sensitive nutrients but still remains safe as a frying oil up to twice use.

COPRA MEAL
FRESH COCONUT MEAT

4,000 years recorded benefits

Coconut oil has 4,000 years of recorded health benefits in Ayurvedic medicine.

During the Spanish era, Filipinos extracted oil naturally even after English merchants introduced commercial copra oil milling in 1850.

The anti-tropical oils propaganda in 1950 intensified through the American Soybean Association's media campaign in 1987.

By the mid-1990s, scientists were declaring coconut oil as the new health oil for the 21st century while uncovering health risks for other oils.

Prevent heart disease

Cardiologist Dr. Conrado Dayrit notes that coconut oil-consuming Filipinos don't have the same health problems of polyunsaturated oil-consuming communities. Despite inroads made by imported oils, coconut oil is keeping Filipino heart mortality rate low, the rate of infectious diseases down, and making them younger-looking for the following reasons:

Coco oil helps prevent heart disease. In 2000, leading hormones researcher, Dr. Raymond Peat confirmed that a sufficient quantity of coconut oil added regularly to a balanced diet: (1) lowers cholesterol to normal by promoting the conversion of bad LDL cholesterol into the anti-oxidant pregnenolone, (2) tends to restore the heart-healthy processes inhibited by unsaturated fats, like metabolism, clot removal and immune function, (3) reduces the body's need for the antioxidant vitamin E and omega-3 fatty acids, (4) inhibits the liver's formation of fat, allowing energy to be used, rather than stored, and (5) can kill major types of atherogenic bacteria and viruses in the blood.

Coco oil can prevent cancer
Dr. Mary Enig found that coconut oil acts an antioxidant. It slows down the oxidation of unsaturated fatty acids.

Coco oil prevents infectious diseases
In the 1970s, pharmacologist Dr. Jon Kabara discovered a rare natural antiviral in lauric acid most abundant in coconut oil.

Bruce Fife's book lists lipid-coated bacteria, viruses and fungi coconut oil can treat.

SOURCES: Mary Enig,Ph.D., "The Truth About Saturated Fat" / Conrado S. Dayrit, MD, "Good Fats, Bad Fats / Raymond Peat, PhD, "Food Loaded with Real Health Benefits"/ Bruce Fife, ND, "Coconut Oil Miracles"

Health updates

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

(Conclusion)

MEDICAL FILES

SUNDAY
COMIX
HAHAHA
HA
Staphe.

WEIGHT problems? Laugh 'em off! A good laugh makes a first-class diet, according to results of American scientists' study on 45 adults.

Researchers from Vanderbilt University in Nashville found that 10 to 45 minutes of strong laughter daily can increase energy consumption by 10 to 40 calories per day, which may induce an additional weight loss of one-half to two kilograms a year.

Never too late to start exercise

According to the Health, Aging and Body Composition Study published in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, it's never too late to start exercising.

The study followed 3,075 adults aged 70 to 79 over the course of seven years and discovered that mobility loss in older people who do not exercise can be reduced by having an active lifestyle.

The study suggests that becoming active even at an old age still has positive health effects. Researchers say that 1.5 to two hours of walking per week can decrease mobility loss caused by aging.

Air pollution ups CV risk among diabetics

High air pollution levels, specifically emissions from coal-burning power plants and diesel vehicles, cause diabetes patients to experience more cardiovascular (CV) problems, suggests a study published in the journal Circulation.

Harvard School of Public Health researchers assessed the effect of high air pollution levels on diabetic adults and found that on days when air pollution levels were high, the patients were at higher risk for CV problems due to impairments in blood vessel function.

Impaired blood vessel function is associated with an increased risk for atherosclerosis, heart attacks, stroke, and other serious cardiovascular problems and death.

Air travel

Risk factors for embolisms

Prolonged immobility during long-haul air travel increases the risk of developing blood clots, report medical researchers in the Mayo Clinic Proceedings.

Deep vein thrombosis (DVT) is the formation of a blood clot within one of the deep veins of the pelvis or lower limbs. When the blood clot breaks into smaller pieces, floats in the blood and becomes lodged in the blood vessels supplying the lungs, a pulmonary embolism can develop, which may result in sudden death.

Researchers say factors that contribute to the risk of blood clots include long periods of immobility during the flight, restriction of leg veins due to compression on the legs from the edge of the seat, and possibly dehydration due to decreased fluid intake or excessive use of alcohol during the flight.

In a second study that also appeared in Proceedings, researchers noted an increased link between the duration of anesthesia for patients undergoing hip or knee replacement surgery and blood clots in the veins after surgery. Analysis of patient data suggests a threshold of anesthesia duration—3.5 hours—that increased the odds of a patient having blood clots in the veins.

Women's weight gain affects income, job

According to a research conducted by New York University sociologists, an increase in a woman's body mass results in a decrease in her family income and a decline in her occupational prestige.

The researchers also found that a woman's body mass is associated with a reduction in her likelihood of marriage, her spouse's occupational prestige, and her spouse's earnings.

The association between body mass and occupational outcomes was more pronounced among younger women. The same association does not hold for men.

Additional benefit of sleep therapy

Continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP)—a common sleep therapy used to treat patients with obstructive sleep apnea (OSA)—may have a protective effect against cardiovascular disease-related death, suggests a new study published in CHEST, the peer-reviewed journal of the American College of Chest Physicians.

According to researchers, short-term use of CPAP therapy may improve OSA patients' health and quality of life, including improved daytime alertness and mental functioning. Extended use of CPAP therapy may have additional benefits to the patients, such as protection against sleep disorder-related CVD.

These nuggets of health information came from articles in the monthly Health & Lifestyle magazine.

COPD patients breathe better with tiotropium

INGELHEIM, Germany—Patients with "chronic obstructive pulmonary disease" (COPD) appear to breathe better by being treated with the inhaled medication tiotropium, according to an analysis of two one-year studies. The analysis was published in the recent edition of the Pulmonary Pharmacology and Therapeutics.

COPD is a respiratory disease which greatly deteriorates lung function and causes chronic breathlessness and can lead to severe respiratory disability. It is the fourth leading cause of death worldwide, claiming 2.75 million lives yearly.

Chronic airflow limitation associated with COPD leads to excess air being trapped in the lungs after a person has fully exhaled. This "air trapping" process is a primary cause of breathlessness, which often restricts a patient's ability to perform common daily activities, such as walking upstairs or taking a shower.

The patients showed a significantly slower decline in forced expiratory volume (FEV), a standard measure of lung function, compared to those receiving placebo. FEV represents the amount of air that can be forcibly exhaled in one second. A decline in FEV indicates that COPD is progressing.

Retrospective analysis

The published results were based on a retrospective analysis of two one-year randomized, placebo-controlled studies of inhaled tiotropium 18 mg once daily in COPD patients. Participants had a mean age of 65 years, a smoking history of 60-pack-years and clinically stable airflow limitation.

The analysis suggests that tiotropium may slow predose FEV decline and significantly improve predose FEV as against placebo. It is effective for both smokers and former smokers.

"The interesting findings support further investigation into the potential long-term benefits of tiotropium," said Prof. Antonio Anzueto, primary author, department of pulmonary/critical care, University of Texas Health Science Center. "The observations are particularly encouraging in advance of the four-year Understanding Potential Long-term Impact on Function with Tiotropium (Uplift) trial, currently ongoing to evaluate tiotropium's ability to reduce lung function decline and disease progression in patients with COPD."

Anticholinergic medication

Tiotropium, a novel inhaled anticholinergic medication, is the first inhaled treatment to provide significant and sustained improvements in lung function with once-daily dosing. It works through targeting of a dominant reversible mechanism of COPD—cholinergic constriction. It helps COPD patients breathe easier by opening narrowed airways and helping keep them open for 24 hours.

Tiotropium demonstrated significant and sustained expansion of the lungs airways and reduction in markers of air trapping. It has also demonstrated superior and sustained improvements in lung function over ipratropium bromide inhalation aerosol, a current first-line therapy for COPD.

SciScope

Some practical health tips

OKF Aloe Vera Juice, an all-natural ready-to-drink aloe vera juice, shares some practical health tips for people on the go like you:

- **Be active.** If you can take the stairs instead of the escalator, do so. You don't always have to park right beside where you are going. A little walking won't hurt you and may even help. Try to quit living a sedentary lifestyle and get moving.
- **Work out at home.** Buying a workout video is the first step. There are at least 50 different exercise videos available in the market today, from yoga, kickboxing, dancing, aerobics, to whatever you feel will work best for you. You don't have to sweat it out daily, instead make your own regular schedule and stick to it. If you don't like exercising alone then invite friends and family to join you so that the "fun factor" is always there.
- **Eat right.** Avoid eating foods that are high in fats and salt content. Try cutting down on frying and start grilling or baking your foods. Concentrate on foods that are high in fiber. Substitute fruits for dessert. Here's the key: eat right, live long.
- **Believe in "water power."** Here's how water works wonders in our body—one glass of water shuts down midnight hunger pangs for almost 100 percent of the dieters, at least five glasses of water daily decrease the risk of colon cancer by 45 percent, slash the risk of breast cancer by 79 percent and reduce the risk of bladder cancer by 50 percent. On the other hand, lack of water primarily triggers daytime fatigue and slows down one's metabolism.
- **Look to nature for healing.** Health does not necessarily come in a high priced bottle of medicines. Sometimes nature provides the best antidotes for what ails us. Aloe vera is one of nature's amazing medicinal herbs. Regular intake of aloe vera juice can prevent coronary heart disease, improve blood circulation, relieve gastrointestinal problems, and aid in digestion, aid in kidney and liver functions.

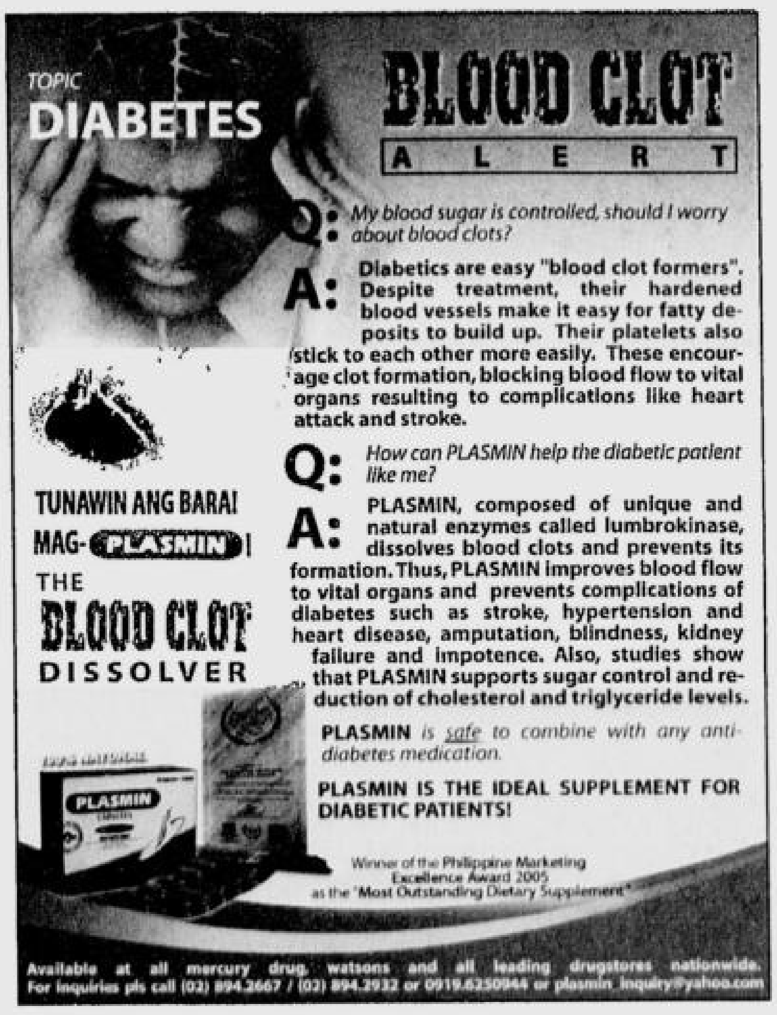
Conference on food safety, nutrition

THE ASIAN Food Information Centre (Afic) recently held a conference for journalists called "Food in the News: A Media Conference on Food Safety, Nutrition and Health" at the Hotel Intercontinental in Makati City.

Afic is a Singapore-based nonprofit society whose mission is to provide science-based information on nutrition, health and food safety, ultimately for the benefit of consumers in Asia.

The half-day conference was organized in cooperation with the Nutritionists and Dietitians Association of the Philippines.

The panel of presenters was composed of Aida Mallillin, senior science research specialist, Food and Nutrition Research Institute; Dr. Patricia Azanza, associate professor, Food Science and Nutrition Department, College of Home Economics, University of the Philippines Diliman; Kelvin Keh, deputy director, Afic; Dr. Corazon Barba, director, Institute of Human Nutrition and Food, College of Human Ecology, UP Los Baños; and Georgina Cairns, executive director, Afic.


TOPIC
DIABETES
BLOOD CLOT
ALERT

Q: My blood sugar is controlled, should I worry about blood clots?

A: Diabetics are easy "blood clot formers". Despite treatment, their hardened blood vessels make it easy for fatty deposits to build up. Their platelets also stick to each other more easily. These encourage clot formation, blocking blood flow to vital organs resulting to complications like heart attack and stroke.

Q: How can PLASMIN help the diabetic patient like me?

A: PLASMIN, composed of unique and natural enzymes called lumbrokinase, dissolves blood clots and prevents its formation. Thus, PLASMIN improves blood flow to vital organs and prevents complications of diabetes such as stroke, hypertension and heart disease, amputation, blindness, kidney failure and impotence. Also, studies show that PLASMIN supports sugar control and reduction of cholesterol and triglyceride levels.

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DOF may push hike in income tax rate

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance will consider pushing for the increase of income tax on self-employed individuals to a uniform rate of 35 percent, as the agency moves on with the second phase of the government's fiscal reform agenda.

A finance official said the idea of setting the income tax rate for the self-employed at 35 percent was put forward to go with the 35-percent corporate income tax rate, as provided in the temporarily suspended Expanded Value-Added Tax law.

At present, the corporate income tax is at a uniform rate of 32 percent.

The DOF wants to change the tax treatment of self-employed individuals in such a way that they are made similar to corporate taxpayers.

"Like corporations, they are operating as business entities and should therefore be taxed as such," the DOF official said in an interview.

Currently, self-employed individuals have varying income tax rates, ranging from 5 to 32 percent, depending on their income. The minimum 5-percent income tax covers individuals earning P10,000 and below annually, while the maximum 32 percent (of the excess of P500,00) plus P125,000 covers those earning over P500,000.

Under the original Simplified Net Income Tax System (SNITS) of the DOF, self-employed individuals would be slapped a uniform income tax rate of 32 percent.

However, the DOF source said it might be practical to adjust the proposed uniform income tax rate for the self-employed to 35 percent, since the VAT law would likewise raise the corporate income tax rate to 35 percent.

But according to the finance official, the VAT law requires the adjustment of the corporate income tax to a lower rate of 30 percent by 2009. If the proposal of aligning the income tax rates on self-employed and corporate taxpayers would be observed, then the rate to be slapped on self-employed should also go down to 30 percent by 2009.

The official said it was ideal to impose the same income tax rate on self-employed and corporate taxpayers so as not to encourage the latter to seek tax shelter. If the income tax rate on the self-employed would be lower than the one imposed on corporate taxpayers, then small businesses might declare themselves as self-employed to avail of the lower tax rate, the official explained.

Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonoan earlier said the DOF would see to it that the remaining fiscal reform measures of the government would be passed by Congress. These include the SNITS and the rationalization of fiscal incentives.

The two measures, which the DOF wants to be passed into law this year, form the second phase of the government's fiscal reform program.

The first phase covers the VAT law. Finance officials are now working to have its temporary suspension lifted by the Supreme Court.

Bonoan said the SNITS and the rationalization of fiscal incentives would further improve efficiency in tax administration, boost government's revenue collection, and eventually solve its fiscal problem.

With the original plan of setting up a uniform self-employed income tax rate of 32 percent, the DOF expects to collect P15 billion in additional revenues a year.

The estimated revenues from the tax measure would be higher if the proposed income tax rate would be raised to 35 percent.

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- Our remittance unit sustained its major industry ranking with a 16% increase in pure OFW remittances – the second year in a row of above industry growth
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Japan agency downgrades RP outlook to negative

By Doris C. Dumlao

JAPAN Credit Rating Agency Ltd. yesterday revised the outlook of its Philippine bond rating from "stable" to "negative," taking into account the the adverse impact of the current political crisis on the government's fiscal reform agenda.

At present the Philippine bond has a BBB-rating from the Japanese firm.

The JCR, which only last April slashed by one notch its rating on Philippine sovereign credit, followed the action recently taken by three global rating agencies: Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's.

A negative outlook indicates a possible ratings downgrade in the near term.

JCR chief analyst Kazuo Imai and senior analyst Yoshihiko Tamura said that the political turmoil has deepened and now threatens the sustainability of the incumbent administration, following the resignation of key economic managers led by former Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima.

The Japanese rating agency added that a prolonged process at the Supreme Court or its ruling on the controversial value added tax (VAT) law could have a serious impact on fiscal reforms.

"Delayed reforms may weaken domestic and external confidence in the country's ability, which in turn may negatively affect the inflow of foreign direct investments," the report said.

"Furthermore, any significant depreciation of the peso would add to the country's debt repayment burdens and push up interest rates, which could make it harder for the country to realize a sustainable economic development," it added.

JCR's current rating of one notch below investment grade is much higher than the ratings given by the three global rating agencies.

Makati Med still bleeding; union halts strike plan

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MAKATI Medical Center continues to suffer from financial woes as losses reached about P35 million in the first five months, the hospital's top official said.

Last Wednesday night, the hospital received some consolation when the union withdrew its plan to strike after management apprised the workers of the company's weak financial state.

Gabino Mendoza, president of Makati Medical, said that the union was initially not convinced that the hospital was having financial problems and that the hospital was just using its cash troubles as a reason to lay off workers.

Last month, the hospital fired 295 employees, paying them P150 million in benefits. According to the hospital, it expected to save about P100 million each year from the downsizing.

The union sought an assurance from the management that the hospital would no longer retrench workers. It also asked the company to reinstate 23 sacked union members, according to sources.

The management, however, did not commit to both demands during the final negotiation on Wednesday.

Instead, management gave in to requests to give maternity benefits to 3 former employees giving birth this year and to "retire" those who will be turning 60 in a year. Retired employees get medical benefits after employment.

Makati Med has about 1,600 workers left. Of those retrenched, 153 are union members. The ailing hospital has more than 800 nurses. A little less than half are not union members. Its more than 700 doctors too, are not union members.

As of May, Mendoza said hospital losses continued to mount. "I think losses would be between P25 and P35 million as of May."

Makati Med registered losses of about P300 million from 2002 to 2004.

Mendoza said the hospital's recovery would depend on how soon new investments would come in so the medical center could improve its facilities and attract more patients.

The hospital is talking with six potential investors to bring in fresh capital of at least P100 million. Mendoza preferred to have between P300 million and P500 million in new money so the hospital could refurbish and buy new equipment.

Increased competition, said Mendoza, dragged down Makati Med's occupancy rate to 60 percent from about 80 percent three years ago.

Asian stocks fall; oil rises on supply worries

SINGAPORE—Most Asian stock markets weakened on Friday as investors locked in profits, erasing early gains built on Wall Street's rise following upbeat US data that showed consumer inflation was tame and retail spending strong.

European shares looked set to open little changed as Wall Street's firm close was expected to offset oil worries as crude prices scaled back above $58 a barrel.

Oil prices bounced more than 1 percent higher after a big fall on Thursday, as dealers fretted over potential US production disruptions even though a major Caribbean hurricane looked set to spare key offshore facilities.

The US data added to other bullish news on the world biggest economy, underpinning the dollar as markets felt reassured the Federal Reserve would keep raising interest rates.

The strong dollar pushed spot gold close to a six-week low, but the metal later recovered to $420 an ounce. A firmer dollar makes gold more expensive for buyers using other currencies.

Japan's Nikkei share average closed slightly lower as investors squared positions ahead of a 3-day weekend, wiping out early gains in some technology stocks.

But analysts said market sentiment remained bullish because of hefty gains in US stocks and positive comments on the economy by the Bank of Japan Governor Toshihiko Fukui and Finance Minister Sadakazu Tanigaki.

South Korean stocks closed 0.22 percent lower, snapping a four-day winning streak as investors took profits from the market's surge this week to 10-year highs after shares of Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd fell following poor quarterly results but a better outlook.

Hong Kong stocks, however, extended recent strong gains to hit a fresh four-year high and Singapore shares nudged up to a new 5-and-a-half year peak.

CNOOC was hit by concerns it might be sucked into a bidding war with Chevron Corp. over its $18.5 billion bid for Unocal Corp. CNOOC stock tumbled more than 5 percent in Hong Kong.

The US retail sales figures came on the heels of data showing a surprising improvement in the giant US trade and budget deficits that have long dogged the currency.

"Dollar sentiment is very strong," said Katsunori Kitakura, senior treasury manager at Chuo Mitsui Trust and Banking in Tokyo. "The market is now expecting some fairly bullish testimony from Greenspan next week."

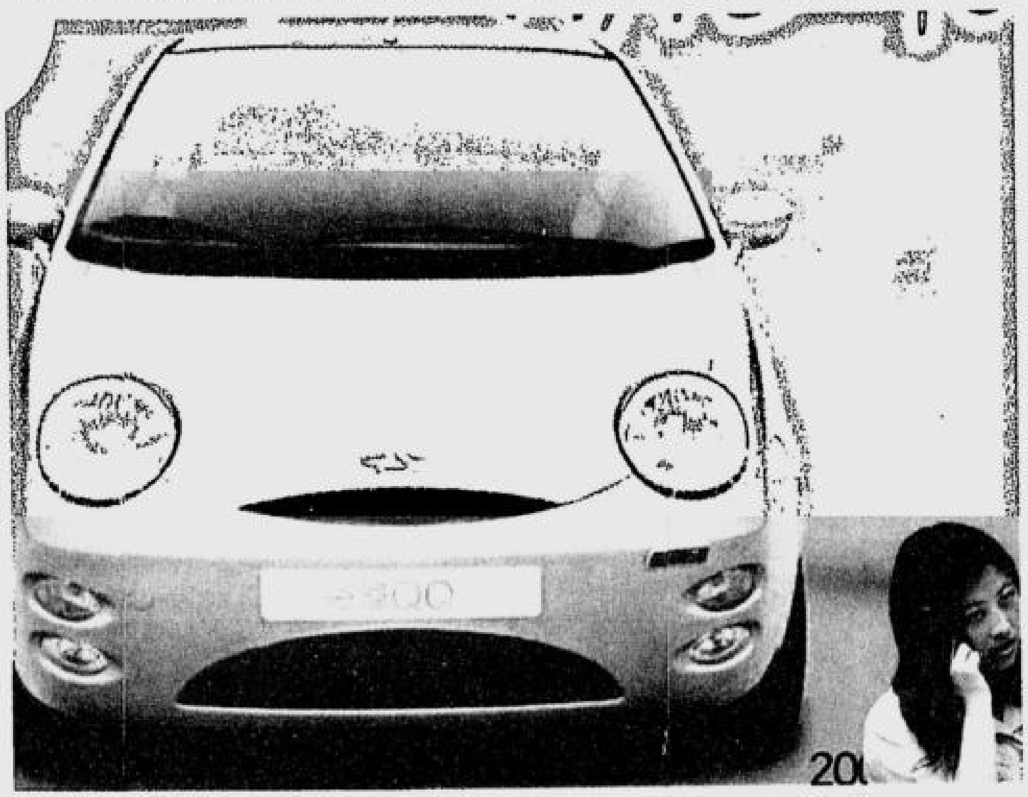
Fed Chair Alan Greenspan is slated to give his semi-annual testimony on the US economy to Congress on Wednesday.

Against the Japanese currency, the dollar fetched around 112 yen, after rising as far as 112.40 yen—just short of 14-month highs above 112.60 yen.

Japanese government bond (JGB) prices fell on Friday after snapping a three-day losing streak the previous day. The benchmark 10-year JGB yield rose 2 basis point to 1.270 percent.

The MSCI index of Asian shares ex-Japan was down 0.28 percent and Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei ended 0.05 percent lower.

Canon, the world's largest digital camera maker and the top producer of laser printers, rose 0.5 percent and Toyota Motor Corp, the world's second-largest auto maker, increased just under 1 percent. *Reuters*



A WOMAN talks on a mobile phone near an advertisement of Chinese automaker Chery Automobile Co.'s QQ mini-car in Shanghai. Demand is shifting away from big sedans long favored by government buyers to the upwardly mobile economy models popular with families getting their first cars. The three top-selling models in China during the first four months of the year were all economy models, according to the China Automobile Manufacturers Association. AP

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World Bank lending up at $22.3B in '05

WASHINGTON—World Bank loans to developing countries rose by $2.2 billion to $22.3 billion in fiscal 2005, which ended June 30, with the bulk going to fast-growing emerging economies, the development institution said on Thursday.

The bank said about $13.6 billion went to emerging economies like India, Turkey, Brazil and China—an increase from $11 billion.

The bank's poorer borrowers received $8.7 billion in the form of no-interest loans or grants. This compares to $9 billion in fiscal 2004.

India was the bank's largest borrower last year at $2.89 billion, followed by Turkey with $1.8 billion, Brazil at $1.77 billion, China at $1 billion and Indonesia at $917 million.

India was also the biggest recipient at $1.1. billion from the World Bank's International Development Association, its lowest cost borrowing facility for impoverished countries, followed by Vietnam at $700 million and Bangladesh at $600 million.

"While the volume of lending was on the increase, overall lending quality also rose," the bank said.

It said total outstanding commitments at risk of not achieving their development objectives declined significantly to 13.5 percent at the end of the year, from 15.9 percent in the previous year.

Of total loans, grants and guarantees, $15.7 billion was for investments, while $6.6 billion was for policy and development initiatives.

"We are particularly encouraged by the turnaround of two declining trends: the bank's financial assistance to middle income countries, and the volume of investment lending," said James Adams, vice president of operational policy and country services.

The bank said Latin American countries, with a total of $5.2 billion, accounted for the largest share of loans, grants, and guarantees last year. This was followed closely by South Asia with $5 billion, Europe and Central Asia at $4.1 billion, Africa $3.9 billion, East Asia/Pacific $2.9 billion, and Middle East and North Africa $1.3 billion. *Reuters*

Japan deflation easing

TOKYO—Deflation in Japan is easing, but the Bank of Japan needs to keep taking effective policies to raise expectations and stamp out the persistent decline in prices, a government report said on Friday.

The report, submitted by Economics Minister Heizo Takenaka to the cabinet, also said the economy was coming out of a soft patch, although soaring oil prices and sluggish growth of exports, particularly to Asia, warranted attention.

Deflation has plagued the country for about seven years, but wholesale prices have been rising, and the pace of declines in consumer prices and the GDP deflator has started to slow.

"Taking the demand side, supply side and financial side comprehensively, deflationary factors are easing compared to before," the Cabinet Office said in its annual report on fiscal and economic conditions.

"It is important for the Bank of Japan to take effective monetary policy to raise expectations on prices and overcome deflation." With commercial banks having fewer needs to hoard cash as the financial system stabilizes, the BOJ is having a hard time flooding the markets with excess funds under its four-year-old "quantitative easing" policy.

Two of the nine members of the BOJ's Policy Board have called for a reduction in the amount of excess funds the central bank provides.

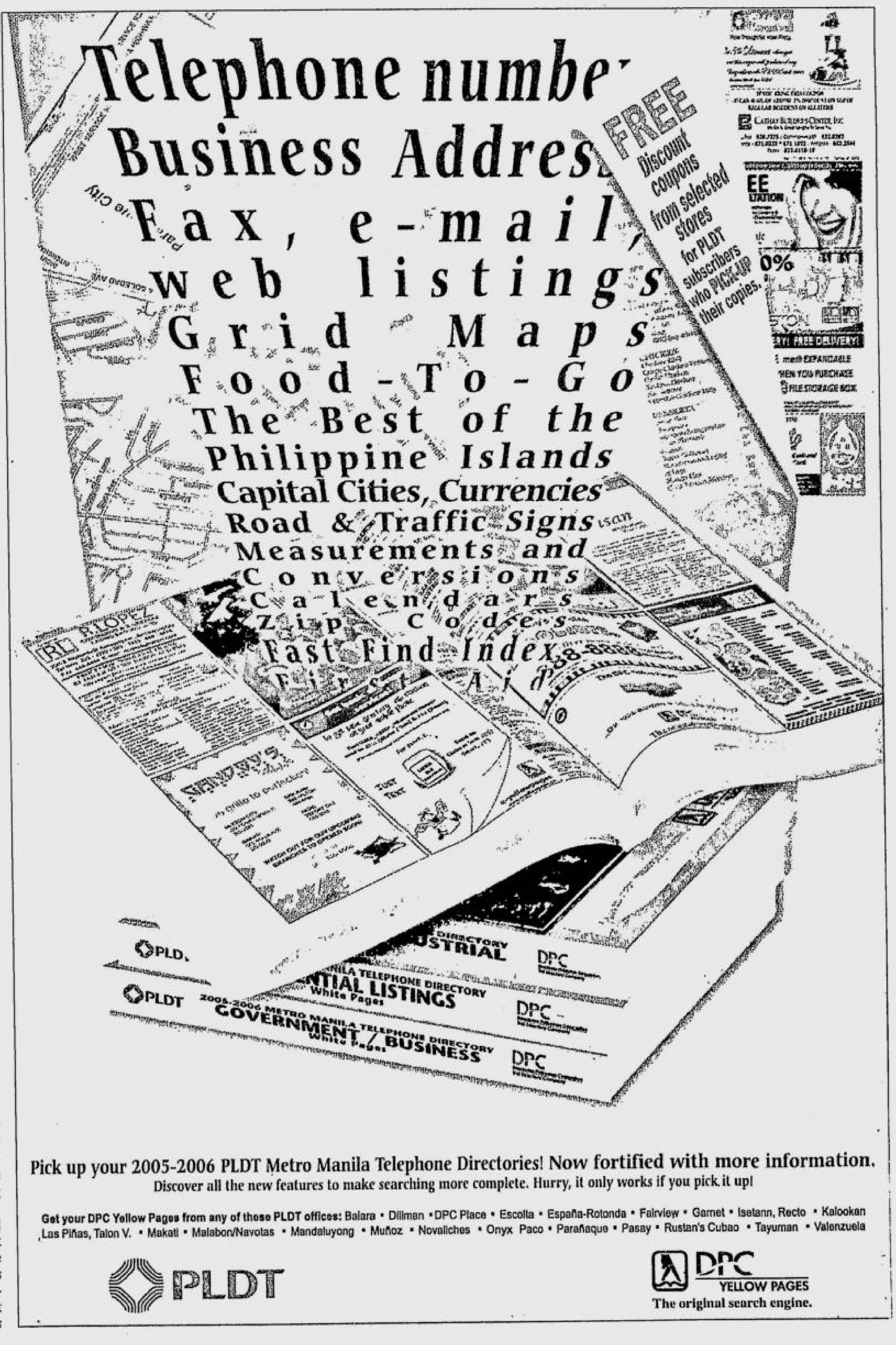
But many members are still wary because of the possible fallout on the economy and on markets, which could interpret the move as a shift toward monetary tightening.

As a compromise measure, the BOJ allowed for temporary breaches in its funds target at a policy meeting in May.

At its latest policy meeting that ended on Wednesday, the BOJ left its hyper-loose monetary policy framework intact by keeping the current funds target and still allowing for temporary breaches.

The Cabinet Office's report said the BOJ's hyper-loose policy has helped stabilise the banking system and has raised price expectations somewhat, but it has not been effective in boosting bank lending and money supply.

The government also repeated its stance that the central bank should consider adopting a price target when switching from its current easing framework to prevent a spike in long-term interest rates. *Reuters*



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Web site:www.nfa.gov.ph /E-mail Address:nfa-region1@sflu.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR TRUCKING/HAULING SERVICES

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites all interested Trucking/Hauling Operators to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of Trucking/Hauling Services for more or less 20,400 MT or 408,000 bags Imported Rice covering the following specific routes:

A. From Poro Point to Staging Warehouses within La Union:

Lot No.	Receiving Warehouse	Volume (bags)	Trucking Reqmt (No.)	Load/Cap. Reqmt.	Approved Budget (ABC)
1	Poro Port to La Union Staging Warehouses, San Juan GID, Aringay Whse./ Caragay Whse./ Agoo Whse./Obar Whse.	320,000	40	16,000	2,240,000.00

B. From La Union Staging Warehouses to the different warehouses within Region I:

Lot No.	Receiving Warehouse	DIK	Volume (bags)	Trucking Reqmt (No.)	Load/Cap. Reqmt.	Approved Budget (ABC)
2	Bangued GID, Abra	138.0	5,000	2	800	76,600.00
3	Chua Warehouse, Ilocos Sur	60.5	3,000	2	800	42,480.00

C. From Poro Point to the different warehouses within Region I:

4	Tagudin FLGC, Ilocos Sur	44.3	10,000	2	800	64,200.00
5	Binalonan Triplex	82.0	53,000	7	2,800	442,550.00
6	Binalonan DM	82.0	17,000	3	1,200	141,950.00

Interested Trucking/Hauling Operators may bid in any or all specified/preferred destinations.

The Schedule of Bidding activities are as follows:

Activity	Date
1. Issuance of Application and List of Eligibility Requirements, Bidding Documents	July16-29, 2005 (8:00 AM-5:00 PM)
2. Pre-Bidding Conference	August 1, 2005 (3:00 PM.)
3. Deadline for the Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals (Opening of Bids will follow immediately)	August 12, 2005 (3:00 PM)

The application forms, eligibility requirements and other bid documents shall be obtained from the RBAC Secretariat after payment of a non-refundable bidding fee in the amount of P2,500.00.

The pre-bid conference and bidding proper shall be conducted at the NFA Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NFA Office Building, San Juan, La Union. All Trucking/Hauling Operators interested to participate in the bidding must be registered/accredited with NFA. Interested bidders who are not NFA-Accredited Trucking/Hauling Operators and/or whose Registration had already expired may still participate provided they shall apply for accreditation/renewal at NFA Region I not later than June 8, 2005.

The eligibility of prospective bidders shall be determined using simple "Pass/Fail" criteria and shall be considered as either "Eligible" or "Ineligible". If the prospective bidder is rated "Passed" for all the requirements, he shall be considered "Eligible". If the prospective bidder is rated "Failed" in any one of the requirements, he shall be considered "Ineligible".

A single stage bidding will be adopted using a simple pass/fail criteria for the evaluation. The prospective bidders shall submit simultaneously three (3) envelopes, one containing the eligibility requirements and two(2) containing bidding documents. Contents of each of the bid envelopes are specified in the Instruction to Bidders.

Eligibility criteria includes among others that the value of the prospective bidder's largest single contract within the last three (3) years, adjusted to current prices, completed within the period and similar to the contract be bid must at least be 50% of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS THEREOF, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA AND/OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

For further inquiries, please contact the RBAC Chairman Ruben S. Rimando or RBAC Secretariat c/o MS. Gloria Daclan at the Regional Office 01, San Juan, La Union or at Tel. Nos. (072)-242-59-09 and (072)-700-25-79.

(Sgd.) **RUBEN S. RIMANDO**
Asst. Regional Manager & RBAC Chairman

(PDI - July 16 & 23, 2005)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Region 01
San Juan, La Union
Tel. No.: (072)242-59-09 & (072)700-25-79 Fax No.: (072) 242-59-07/08
Web site:www.nfa.gov.ph /E-mail Address:nfa-region1@sflu.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR HANDLING SERVICES

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites all interested Handling Contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Unloading Services of NFA imported rice at the different NFA/Leased Warehouses in Region I, to wit:

Province/Destination/Warehouses	Approved Volume (In bags of 50 kg) for Transfer Within the Region	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) (Rate per 50-kg bag x Total Volume)
1. NFA GID Warehouse, San Juan/ Staging Warehouses, La Union	569,000	P 1,707,000.00
2. NFA Loakan/NFA Kadiwa Warehouse, Loakan Whse., Baguio City	70,000	210,000.00
3. NFA GID Warehouse, Abra	5,000	15,000.00
4. NFA GID Warehouse, Laoag City, Dingras Whse., Ilocos Norte	22,000	66,000.00
5. NFA GID Warehouse, Bantay, Ilocos Sur	41,000	123,000.00
6. NFA GID Warehouse, Binalonan, NFA Rosales Warehouse, Pangasinan	107,000	321,000.00
– La Union to Binalonan	70,000	210,000.00
– Binalonan to Baguio City	70,000	210,000.00
7. NFA GID Alaminos/ NFA Mangatarem GID, Pangasinan	84,000	252,000.00
TOTAL	1,038,000	P 3,114,000.00

Interested Handling Contractors may bid on any or all warehouse-destinations.
The Schedule of Bidding activities are as follows:

Activity	Date
1. Issuance of Application and List of Eligibility Requirements, Bidding Documents	July16-29, 2005 (8:00 AM-5:00 PM)
2. Pre-Bidding Conference	August 1, 2005 (1:00 PM.)
3. Deadline for the Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals (Opening of Bids will follow immediately)	August 12, 2005 (1:00 PM)

The application forms, eligibility requirements and other bid documents shall obtained from the RBAC Secretariat after payment of a non-refundable bidding fee in the amount of P1,500.00.

The eligibility of prospective bidders shall be determined using simple "Pass/Fail" criteria and shall be considered as either "eligible" or "ineligible". If the prospective bidder is rated "Passed" for all the requirements, he shall be considered "eligible". If the prospective bidder is rated "Failed" in any one of the requirements, he shall be considered ineligible.

Eligibility criteria includes among others that the value of the prospective bidders largest single contract within the last three (3) years, adjusted to current prices, completed within the period and similar to the contract be bid must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS THEREOF, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA AND /OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

For further inquiries, please contact the RBAC Chairman Ruben S. Rimando or RBAC Secretariat Ms.Gloria Daclan at the Regional Office 01, San Juan, La Union or at Tel. Nos. (072) 242-59-09 or (072) 700-25-79.

(SGD) **RUBEN S. RIMANDO**
Asst. Regional Manager & RBAC Chairman

(PDI – July 16 & 23, 2005)

WANTED

AIRCON TECH / INSTALLER

- *Air conditioning Vocational Graduate*
- *Expert in Split and Packaged Type A/C*
- *Hardworking, Honest & Reliable*

DRIVER / COLLECTOR

- *Single, college level*
- *Can drive cars & motorcycle*
- *Can trouble shoot*
- *Honest & hardworking*

Please send your resumé & picture to:
GRAND AIR CONDITIONING
1650 A. Francisco St.,
San Andres Bukid, Manila.
Tel. No. 561-2078 / 562-2703

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Transportation
and Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD
Region VI, Iloilo City

VALLACAR TRANSIT, INC. CASE NO. BEO-00-VI-280
Applicant/Petitioner/s

NOTICE

Petitioner request authority for the renewal of CPC to operate a PUB service on the line: DUMAGUETE CITY-BACOLOD CITY and vice versa, with the use of six (6) units.

This application/petition shall be considered by the Board on July 26, 2005 at 9:30 a.m., at its office at LTFRB Building, Quintin Salas, Jaro, Iloilo City, on which date applicant/petitioner shall formally submit all its his/her evidences.

At least ten (10) days prior to the date of hearing, applicant/petitioner shall publish this NOTICE once in any newspaper of general circulation in the Island of Negros Occidental, and to send by REGISTERED MAIL with RETURN CARD, a copy of the application/petition and notice of hearing to the affected operators listed per Annex "A" hereof.

Parties opposed to the granting of this application/ petition must file their written opposition supported by the documentary evidence unless the Board deems it necessary to receive additional documentary and/or oral evidence.

WITNESS, THE HONORABLE, PORFIRIO D. CLAVEL, JR., Regional Director this 12th day of July, 2005.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ROMEL D. DURON**
Hearing Officer

(PDI–July 16, 2005)

LCR FORM 10.1 (LCRO)

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of Misamis Oriental
Cagayan de Oro City

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R A. No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that **ALFREDO P. GUMINANG** has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from **FAUSTINO JR.** to **ALFREDO** in the Certificate of Live Birth of **FAUSTINO GUMINANG JR.** who was born on January 23, 1951 at **MANILA CITY** and whose parents are **FAUSTINO GUMINANG** and **TERESA PABRO.**

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition within this office not later than July 25, 2005

(Sgd.) **NORMA S. DIPUTADO**
City Civil Registrar

(PDI–July 16 & 23, 2005)

JOB Market

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Region 01
San Juan, La Union
Tel. No.: (072)242-59-09 & (072)700-25-79
Fax No.: (072) 242-59-07 & (072) 242-59-08
Web site:www.nfa.gov.ph/E-mail Address:nfa-region1@sflu.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR ARRASTRE AND STEVEDORING SERVICES FOR NFA REGION 01

The National Food Authority, NFA Regional Office 01, San Juan, La Union invites qualified Cargo Handling Services Contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of Cargo Handling Services in the discharging of more or less 20,000 MT or 400,000 bags rice imports at Poro Port, San Fernando City with an Approved Budget for the Contract of P3,455,200.00.

The Schedule of Bidding activities are as follows:

Activity	Date
1. Issuance of Application and List of Eligibility Requirements, Bidding Documents	July16-29, 2005 (8:00 AM-5:00 PM)
2. Pre-Bidding Conference	August 1, 2005 (10:00 AM.)
3. Deadline for the Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals (Opening of Bids will follow immediately)	August 12, 2005 (10:00 AM)

The application forms, eligibility requirements and other bid documents shall be obtained from the RBAC Secretariat after payment of a non-refundable bidding fee in the amount of P2,500.00.

The pre-bid Conference and bidding proper shall be conducted at the NFA Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NFA Building, San Juan, La Union.

The eligibility of prospective bidders shall be determined using simple "Pass/Fail" criteria and shall be considered as either "eligible" or "ineligible". If the prospective bidder is rated "Passed" for all the requirements, he shall be considered "eligible". If the prospective bidder is rated "Failed" in any one of the requirements, he shall be considered ineligible.

A single stage bidding will be adopted using a simple pass/fail criteria for the evaluation. The prospective bidders shall submit simultaneously two (2) envelopes, Envelope A containing the eligibility requirements and Envelope B containing bidding documents. Contents of each of the bid envelopes are specified in the Instructions to Bidders.

Eligibility criteria includes among others that the value of the prospective bidders largest single contract within the last three (3) years, adjusted to current prices, completed within the period and similar to the contract be bid must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA AND /OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

For further inquiries, please contact the RBAC Chairman Ruben S. Rimando or RBAC Secretariat Ms. Gloria Daclan at the Regional Office 01, San Juan, La Union or at Tel. Nos. (072) 242-59-09 or (072) 700-25-79.

(Sgd.) **RUBEN S. RIMANDO**
Asst. Regional Manager & RBAC Chairman

(PDI - July 16 & 23, 2005)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Quezon City

NOTICE OF SALE THRU AUCTION

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce to all interested Farmer's Organizations (FO's), Retailers and other interested NFA licensed wholesalers/millers that NFA will be accepting sealed offers for the Sale thru Auction of 100,000 MT or 2.0-Million bags 15% brokens Imported Rice 2005 Arrivals

PARTICULARS	VOLUME (IN MT)		INDICATIVE PRICE
Farmer's Organizations	20,000	Ex-vessel	P 970.00/bg
Retailers	20,000	Ex-warehouse	P 1,010.00/bg
Open to all interested buyers	60,000		

The pre-auction conference and auction proper shall be conducted simultaneously in Manila, Cebu City and Davao City at 10:00 AM on the following date and venue:

Venue	Contact Person	Pre-Auction Conference	Auction Proper
NFA Davao Office Sta. Ana Ave., Davao City (for Mindanao bidders)	Ms. Dianne Silva Tel. # (083) 554-3200 Tel. # (082) 227-4166	July 20, 2005	July 22, 2005
NFA Cebu Office Gov. M. Cuenco Ave. Banilad, Cebu City (for Visayas and Reg IX bidders)	Mr. Piolito Santos Tel # (032) 232-1939 Tel # (032) 232-6832	July 20, 2005	July 22, 2005
FDC, FTI Compound Taguig, Metro Manila (for Luzon bidders)	Ms. Espie Tecson Tel # 712-1708 Tel # 712-1572	July 20, 2005	July 22, 2005

All interested bidders/buyers are required to submit the following documents:

a. Original and xerox copy of NFA license (retailing, wholesaling and/or milling)
b. In case of representative, a duly notarized authorization from the owner, partner, chairman or president that he or she is authorized to represent the business entity in the pre-auction/auction proper and all activities thereto.
c. Offer must be accompanied by Bid Bond equivalent to 10% of the volume bidded in the form of Cashier's or Manager's check payable to NFA issued by a reputable commercial bank in Metro Manila

Interested bidders may secure the Terms and Conditions starting July 20, 2005 at the aforementioned venues from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. For any inquiries, interested bidders can call the above-mentioned contact persons.

Bid documents will be available during the pre-auction conference to qualified bidders/offerors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,500 for FO's/retailers and P3,000.00 for other interested bidders (wholesalers/ millers).

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality thereof, and to accept only such bids that are advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **CONRADO DL. IBAÑEZ**
Assistant Administrator and
Chairman, Disposition Committee

(PDI – July 16 & 18, 2005)

PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER

East Avenue, Quezon City
is now accepting applications for
Academic Year 2006

FELLOWSHIPS IN:

I. **CV Anesthesiology Division**
  - 3 years Residency in General Anesthesia accredited by PBA (Board eligible)

II. **Pediatric Cardiovascular Medicine Department**
  - 3 years Residency in General Pediatric accredited by PPS
  - at least passed written examination for Diplomate in Pediatrics

III. **Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery Division**
  - 4 years Residency in General Surgery accredited by PCS (Board eligible)

RESIDENCIES IN: (for Medical Board Passers)

IV. **CV Radiological Sciences Division**
V. **Nuclear Medicine Section**
VI. **Biological and Clinical Laboratory Division**
VII. **1 year Fellowship Program (CV Radiological Sciences / Nuclear Medicine / Biological & Clinical Lab.)**
  - Deadline for submission of application is on August 31, 2005
  - Academic Year 2004 starts on January 1, 2006

General Requirements:

1. Medical Diploma
2. Transcript of Records with the General Weighted Average
3. Itemized Board Rating
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation (coming from different doctors specifically the Training Officer &/or Director of the previous training programs)
5. Four (4) pcs. 2" x 2" colored picture
6. Certificate of Residency in required specialty
7. Specialty Board Certificate in required specialty

Please address your communications to:
JOSE A. YULDE, M.D.
Assistant Director
Office of Education and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela M. Ocasion or Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia with tel. nos. 925-2401 locals 3234, 3235, 3236 & 3237 and telefax 926-9622, or you can email to oer@phc.gov.ph

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PRINCIPLE SECURITY (U.K.)

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SURVEILLANCE / COUNTER-SURVEILLANCE
CORPORATE TRAINING COURSES
SECURITY EQUIPMENT

If Principle Security (UK) can assist you, please contact:
Tel/Fax (049) 531-4921

SEND YOUR RESUMÉS INSTANTLY

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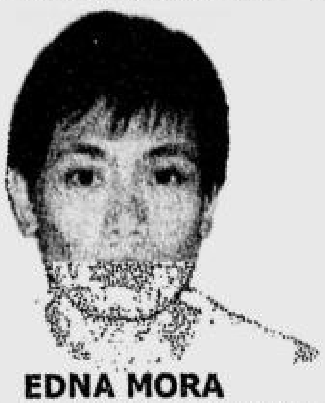
WORK is in full-swing at the National Transmission Corporation's gas-insulated 200 megavolt-ampere substation at the foot of the Marcelo Fernan bridge (Mactan side). The state-of-the-art substation is a key component of the Cebu-Mactan interconnection project. Once completed in November this year, the project will further enhance the reliability of power at the Mactan Export Processing Zone which provides 15,000 jobs and $1.7 billion worth of annual production. The interconnection will also serve the power needs of industries and commercial establishments in Mandaue City and its environs.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



EDNA MORA
A.K.A. EDNA HERNANDEZ

Be it known that warrants for the arrest of **EDNA MORA** of Josefa Village, Tanauan, Batangas, whose picture appears above, have been issued by the Regional Trial Court Fourth Judicial Region Branch 63 of Calauag, Quezon, in Criminal Cases Nos. 3772-C, 3773-C for violation of ESTAFA.

A CASH REWARD will be given for any information leading to her arrest.

Please contact **FERNANDO ELEAZAR, JR. - 042-3046231** and/or **RICHARD ELEAZAR - 0917-8977424.**

NOTICE

THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT KOOKIES INTERNATIONAL RECRUITMENT AGENCY, INC., WITH PRESENT OFFICE ADDRESS AT 4F THE STATION POINT, 3299 MAGSAYSAY BLVD., STA. MESA, MANILA, METRO MANILA, IS APPLYING FOR LICENSE WITH THE PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION (POEA). ITS OFFICERS/ INCORPORATORS ARE: ARMANDO J. ZOLETA (PRESIDENT), ANGELINE O. IGUCHI (VICE PRESIDENT), JOCELYN T. MATEO (SECRETARY), JUDE D. EJAN (TREASURER) AND FREDERICK O. RAMOS (DIRECTOR).

(PDI – JULY 16, 2005)

Creba Foundation pushes 2nd housing conference

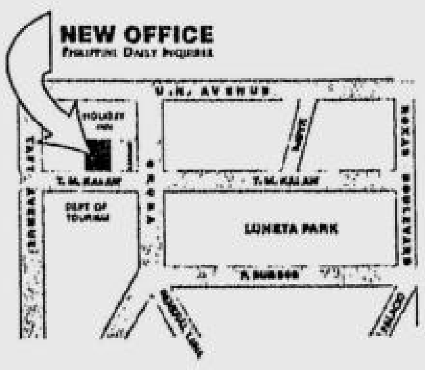
THE CREBA Social Housing Foundation Inc (CSHFI), in cooperation with the housing and Urban Dev't Coordinating Council (HUDCC) and the Department of Interior and Local gov't (DILG) is hosting a-2day LGU-private Sector Housing Conference on July 28 and 29 at the Philippine Trade Training Center, Sen Gil Puyat Ave. Cor. Roxas Blvd., Pasay City, dubbed as "Sandaang Bahay Bawat Probinsiya, Lungsod, munisipyo at Pribadong Sector." Designed to further strengthen the capability of Local Government Units to undertake housing projects, the conference features a list of housing topics to be tackled by experts in the field of housing, including topics on livelihood microfinancing to enhance economic activities in the respective localities of the LGU's. Main conference objective is to prod governors, mayors and other local executives to start housing projects for constituents in their own communities.

Vice President Noli de Castro is expected to talk on government's special housing thrust for LGU's and the ppor sector under the medium term Philippine Plan and on related issues. A featured event of the housing conference is a job fair that will match the manpower requirements of participating companies with pre-screened walk-in applicants during the event. job seeker are invited to visit the conference site where individual company boots are set up to accept and process job applications.

CORPORATE WORLD 2005 OPENING.
Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr. (center)leads in the ribbon-cutting rites signaling the opening of Corporate World 2005 at the World Trade Center Manila. Scheduled up to Saturday (July 16), Corporate World 2005 puts together two of the business community's major trade shows – the 18th Corporate Giveaways, and the 2nd Corporate Solutions. Flanking Magsaysay are, from left: Worldexco chairman Alex Limjoco, Infocom Technologies president Cecilio Lorenzo, Worldexco president Lynn Z. Romero, and Albanian Consul-General Ceferino Benedicto.

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

Manila Branch is open to serve your Classified Ads requirements.



MANILA BRANCH
G/F TRINITY BLDG.,
836 T.M KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
TEL. NO.: 527-3342 / 522-4406
Contact Persons: Babes, Connie & Grig

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail: member_relations@sss.gov.ph • Web site http://www.sss.gov.ph

NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publication, if you are:

	NAME OF BENEFICIARIES	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEMISE
1)	Eva C. Agustin	Unknown	Rosita C. Agustin SS#03-0886636-0	May 15, 2001
2)	Cesar Aldabon, Sr.	Unknown	Cesar S. Aldabon, Jr. SS#33-7022687-0	January 5, 2005
3)	Charity Narra	Balasing, Sta. Maria Bulacan	Romeo S. Alonzo SS#33-4534775-5	December 7, 2002
4)	Leah Beldomer Jose Alvarez	302 Poblacion St., Noveta, Cavite	Francis R. Alvarez SS#33-5702420-2	February 3, 2005
5)	Amaparo Aquino Roderick Aquino Patrick Aquino	San Pablo City	Carlos V. Aquino SS#04-0208661-9	February 15, 2005
6)	Leonora B. Arroyo	58 Ilocos Sur St., Bagong Barrio, Caloocan City	Cirilo Deslate, Arroyo, Jr. SS#03-3839537-7	May 27, 2003
7)	Gina Gamido	Unknown	Celestino L. Blasé SS#01-1121644-0	June 22, 2000
8)	Estela Pulgar Calub	Unknown	Nestor Calub SS#01-0896831-6	May 19, 1999
9)	Sol M. Cambaya	Carmen, Cagayan De Oro City	Teodoro Cambaya SS#08-0425025-0	June 15, 2005
10)	Florencia Chuson	100 Lerma St., Mandaluyong, Metro Manila	Teofilo Chuson SS#03-0360788-3	February 3, 2005
11)	Leonora Nogit	Cabucgayan, Leyte	Teofilo N. Cosingco SS#03-3369864-2	January 31, 2005
12)	Myrna Delizo	Cordon, Isabela	Victoriano L. Delizo SS#01-0313897-6	December 21, 2003
13)	Adelaida Cabe	Unknown	Expedito Diaz, Jr. SS#01-0174671-3	August 20, 2002
14)	Paz J. Libajan	224 Nava, Balut, Tondo, Manila	Fernando Embuscado SS#03-3507425-1	March 4, 2005
15)	Julieta, Josephine & Evelyn	Unknown	Henry Flores SS#03-5106460-1	February 5, 2004
16)	Imelda Abay-Abay Forte	Unknown	Florentino F. Forte SS#04-0170588-1	June 23, 2005
17)	Jeric Pedraverde	Metro Manila	Isagani P. Gloria SS#33-2449332-9	September 28, 2001
18)	Alma M. Magallanes	Semirara, Caluya, Antique	Celso Magallanes SS#07-1133221-6	February 20, 1999
19)	Christopher Mateo Marifel Mateo Erlinda C. Mateo	Unknown	Felixberto D. Mateo SS#03-0746928-9	March 21, 2004
20)	Lorenzo Nacionales	Tondo, Manila	Silvestre Nacionales SS#03-0107860-5	March 28, 2005
21)	Cely R. Nadayag	Zone 5 San Juan, Agdao Davao City	Salvador Nadayag SS#08-0649696-0	January 7, 2005
22)	Venchito Octa	Unknown	Ruth Octa SS#01-1138651-6	January 25, 2005
23)	Clara Ruis	937 Grialte St., Jolo, Mandaluyong City	Eugenio Cayabyab Pardales SS#03-0887764-7	May 8, 2005
24)	Veronica Cordovilla-Rivera	848 Quirino Hi-way, Novaliches, QC	Narciso A. Rivera SS#03-2125415-3	June 18, 2004
25)	Rosita Rebato	San Jose de Buan, W. Samar	Domingo O.Rebato SS#03-5485781-5	August 1, 2004
26)	Ma. Luisa N. Rosales	Panorama corner Bon River Rancho Estate, Marikina	Decoroso A. Rosales SS#03-8000199-4	April 17, 2002
27)	Erwin Saavedra	Unknown	Victoria Saavedra SS#01-1540463-0	November 29, 2004
28)	Renato Q. Tumaliuan	Unknown	Lilia Tumaliuan SS#01-0263221-1	June 8, 2005
29)	Paty Honas	57 Libertad St., Pasay City	Antonio T. Velasco SS#03-0934021-2	May 19, 2005
30)	Erlinda Ong	Unknown	Angelito A. Villaluz SS#03-2032447-9	February 9, 2004

– Nothing Follows –

(PDI – July 16, 2005)

PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE
INVITATION TO SUBMIT OFFERS

The Privatization and Management Office (PMO) is offering for sale, on an **"as-is, where-is"** basis, the following asset formerly belonging to Carruf Development Corporation as follows:

Description	Indicative Price
Land (1,504 sq.m.) located at Maytubig St., Malate, Manila	P 19,552,000.00

Sealed offers will be received on 27 July 2005, 3:00 p.m. and immediately thereafter, the offers shall be opened and tabulated in the presence of the offerors at the PMO Conference Room, 6th floor, Privatization and Management Office, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Interested parties are advised to deal directly with the PMO Marketing Department. Authenticated Offer for Sale documents, together with the Asset Specific Catalogue, may be secured from PMO for a nominal fee of P500.00.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Shayne J. Monasterio at telephone numbers 817-6331 or 892-2145.

(PDI--July 16, 17 & 18, 2005)

Call for prayer power

THE CATHOLIC Media Network and Rosary for Life (Phils) have issued a call for prayer power amidst the current political crisis. "The Living Rosary for Life" will be aired over the radio stations of the Catholic Media Network today, the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, to encourage Filipinos to resort not so much to people power but to the power of united prayer. "The Living Rosary for Life" has been endorsed by Archbishop Fernando Capalla, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines. Tune in to DZRH 666 AM at 4 p.m., DZRJ 810 AM at 4 p.m. and on DZXL 558 AM at 2:30 a.m. For more information call Jackie or Weng at 400-3447 or Chelle Crisanto at (0917)828-0831.

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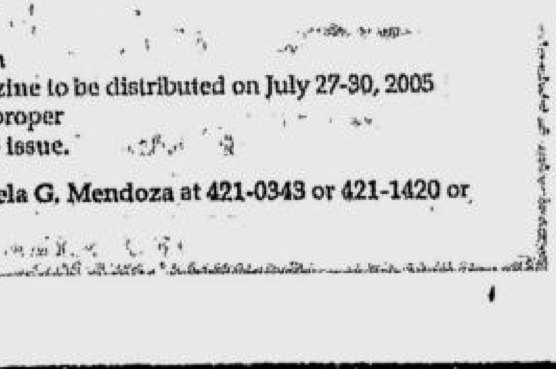

National Power Corporation
Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
Republic of the Philippines
NPC, PSD 2005-09
VARIOUS EQUIPMENT, SPARE PARTS, WORK ORDERS INTENDED FOR NPC MAJOR POWER PLANTS

1. The NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION, through its approved Corporate Budget of CY 2005 intends to apply the sum of (see schedule under 9) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract as listed below. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected/disqualified at Bid opening.
2. The NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for GOODS as listed below. Delivery of the GOODS are required by the date indicated in the bid documents. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and is restricted to Filipino Citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights to privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to post qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who shall determine as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM, Monday to Friday. However, issuance of Bidding Documents shall start on July 21, 2005 from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM, Monday to Friday. No Bid Documents will be issued one (1) calendar day before the date of bidding.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount as listed below. The method of payment will be cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on the dates as listed below at National Power Corporation's available function rooms.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before the dates as listed below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash, certified check, cashiers check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit equivalent to one percent (1%) of the ABC; Bank guarantee equivalent to one and a half percent (1.5%) of the ABC; Surety bond equivalent to two and a half percent (2.5%) of the ABC; Foreign guarantee equivalent to one hundred percent (100%) of the ABC, or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on the dates as listed below at National Power Corporation's available function rooms. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. ITEMS FOR BID

SCHEDULE NUMBER	PR NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT	BID DOCS. PRICE
DATE OF BIDDING: AUGUST 15, 2005; 9:00 am				
9A1	APD-05-009 (NY)	J.O.-FOR HAULING & TRANSFER OF FUEL OIL (BUNKER C) FROM MTPP TO BCFTPP	P 2,184,044.24	P 1,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING : AUGUST 15, 2005; 2:00 PM				
9B1	BCF-04-911 (NY)	J.O.-FOR SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF AIR COMPRESSOR ASSY.	P 12,915,000.00	P 3,000.00
9B2	BCF-05-306 (ZC)	ROCKWOOL INSULATING BOARD, DENSE CASTABLES, ETC.	P 3,475,000.00	P 1,000.00
9B3	BCF-05-418 (EA)	DIESOLINE, 70,000 LTRS.	P 2,030,000.00	P 1,000.00
9B4	PB1-05-126 (NY)	HYCHLORATOR, TYPE: GLS-160	P 1,800,000.00	P 500.00
DATE OF BIDDING: AUGUST 16, 2005; 9:00 AM				
9C1	BAC-05-332 (LS)	J.O.-FOR IMPROVEMENT OF AIRCON SYSTEM	P 1,500,000.00	P 500.00
9C2	BAC-05-409 (LS)	J.O.-FOR REPAIR OF COOLING TOWER	P 1,066,245.20	P 500.00
DATE OF BIDDING : AUGUST 16, 2005; 2:00 PM				
9D1	MGM-04-337 (RP)	VARIOUS TEMPERATURE SWITCH & INDICATOR	P 1,203,200.00	P 500.00
9D2	MGM-05-048 (RP)	J.O.-FOR REHAB OF FIRE FIGHTING SYSTEM	P 15,000,000.00	P 3,000.00
9D3	MGM-05-103 (RP)	J.O.-FOR REPAIR OF COOLING TOWER	P 10,000,000.00	P 2,000.00
9D4	MGM-05-106 (JP)	J.O.-INSTALLATION OF INSTRUMENT CUBICLES & ENCLOSURE OF PROCESS TRANSMITTER & INTERLOCK	P 1,650,000.00	P 500.00
DATE OF BIDDING : AUGUST 17, 2005; 9:00 AM				
9E1	TPM-05-056 (RP)	J.O.-FOR REPAIR OF CORRODED / DAMAGED STEAM DRAIN PIPING	P 2,105,000.00	P 1,000.00
9E2	TPM-05-059 (RP)	J.O. FOR RENOVATION / INSTALLATION OF HYDROGEN GAS PIPING SYSTEM	P 2,300,000.00	P 1,000.00
9E3	TPM-05-128 (LS)	J.O.-FOR REPAIR OF MULTI-STACK MODULAR CHILLER, ETC.	P 9,900,000.00	P 2,000.00
9E4	TPM-05-129 (LS)	J.O.-FOR REPLACEMENT OF 230 KV INSULATORS	P 8,942,769.00	P 2,000.00
9E5	TPM-05-152 (LS)	J.O.-FOR CLEANING OF HYDROGEN, LUBE OIL & THYRISTOR COOLERS	P 1,506,000.00	P 500.00
DATE OF BIDDING : AUGUST 18, 2005; 9:00 AM				
9F1	MCF-04-702 (JP)	J.O.-FOR JIB CRANE	P 1,500,000.00	P 500.00
9F2	MCF-04-629 (JP)	BEARING SINGLE ROW, DEEP GROOVE	P 1,570,800.00	P 500.00
9F3	MCF-04-736 (JP)	SINGLE ROW CYLINDRICAL & DOUBLE ROW TAPERED ROLLER BEARINGS	P 5,100,000.00	P 2,000.00
9F4	MCF-05-345 (LS)	CONVEYOR BELT, EP 400/2, 2 PLY, 250MTRS/ROLL	P 1,260,000.00	P 500.00
9F5	MCF-05-357 (JP)	J.O.-FOR REPAIR OF ELECTROSTATIC PRECIPITATOR (ESP) CONTROL SYSTEM	P 4,000,000.00	P 1,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING : AUGUST 18, 2005; 2:00 PM				
9G1	PAN-05-262 (LS)	J.O.-FOR RETUBING OF GENERATOR AIRCOOLERS	P 1,300,000.00	P 500.00

NOTE A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held at any available NPC Function Room for the following bidding schedules on:

9A1	August 1, 2005, 9:00 AM	9E1-9E5	August 3, 2005, 9:00 AM
9B1-9B4	August 1, 2005, 2:00 PM	9F4-9F5	August 4, 2005, 9:00 AM
9C1-9C2	August 2, 2005, 9:00 AM	9G1	August 4, 2005, 2:00 PM
9D1-9D4	August 2, 2005, 2:00 PM		

10. The NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
PROCUREMENT SERVICES DIVISION
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
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BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE-PSD

(PDI – July 16, 2005)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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OUR WORLD UNDER ONE ROOF

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The **Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Association (CREBA)** will hold the country's first-ever Developer's Summit – **CREBA Expo 2005** – carrying the theme ***"Our World Under One Roof"***.

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3. **Circulation within Metro Manila**
4. **Free copies of the CREBA Magazine to be distributed on July 27-30, 2005 during CREBA Expo 2005 event proper**
5. **Insert on Inquirer's July 24, 2005 issue.**

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

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RAVINDER SINGH S/O NAIB SINGH of Abuwal Teh Raikot (Ldh) changed name to Ravinder Singh Dhaliwal

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late COMMODORE DOMINGO H. CALAJATE has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs on July 14, 2005 before Atty. Ma. Concepcion A. Gloria, Notary Public in and for Manila City as per Doc. 239, Page 49, Book V, Series of 2005
(PDI July 16, 23 & 30, 2005)

Notice is hereby given that JESUS F. ORTEGA has self adjudicated unto himself the estate of his late mother Belen the following properties A parcel of land Lot 6209 NW by Lot 6202 NE Lot 6210 SE Lot 6208 SW by Mabini St., A Parcel of land Lot 1747 Cad 466-Dand Lot 1755 Cad 466 all situated in Alfonso Cavite before Notary Public Gil Genorga of City of Taguig.
(PDI- July 16, 23, & 30 2005)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE HEIRS OF THE LATE REMEDIOS P. DIAZ-OPEÑA HAVE EXECUTED AN EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS AS PER DOC. NO. 456 PAGE NO. 93 BOOK NO. 146 SERIES OF 2005 BEFORE ATTY. IMELDA JIRO CRUZ-NERY, A NOTARY PUBLIC.
(PDI JULY 9,16 & 23, 2005)

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811-4361;
811-4370

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527-3342

MEGAMALL:
635-0219;
635-0220

IN MEMORY OF
OUR BELOVED MOTHER

Cresida "Frida" Canlas Tueres

ON HER SEVENTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY
THIS 16TH OF JULY 2005

Masses will be offered at the following churches:

Christ the King Parish	*Green Meadows / E. Rodriguez, Q.C.*	6:00 p.m.
Sanctuario de San Antonio	*Dasmariñas Village Makati City*	6:00 p.m.
Sanctuario de San Jose	*Greenhills, San Juan*	6:00 p.m.
St. Paul the Apostle Parish	*Panay Avenue, Quezon City*	6:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish	*New Manila, Quezon City*	4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

ISABEL OLIVEROS MILITAR

"Tia Sabel"

wish to express our deepest gratitude to all of you who offered prayers, kept vigil with us and in many ways condoled with us during these times.

Tia Sabel joined her Creator last July 13, 2005.

"An eagle crosses the bar into eternal life...

ATTY. BENITO M. SABBAN

Ateneo LLB '54, AQUILA LEGIS '50
January 12, 1928 – July 14, 2005

Made his last pleading, and the motion is lost. God Almighty, the SUPREME JUSTICE, in His infinite wisdom, rendered the FINAL DECISION. We, the family, have no objections. There is no motion for Reconsideration.

His remains lie in state at the Good Shepherd Parish Ascension Chapel, Fairview Quezon City. After which, he shall be transferred to the St. Peter's Cathedral in Tuguegarao City on Monday, July 18, 2005. Interment will be on Friday, July 22, 2005, where the Holy Mass will be presided by His Excellency, Most Rev. Diosdado A. Talamayan, D.D. Arzobispo nat Tuguegarao.

We rest our case. The faithful are requested to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Dolores Liwanag Cajator

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who, in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

Francisca Nakpil de Lange

(April 2,1906-July 13, 2005, Daughter of Julio Nakpil and Gregoria de Jesus)

Peacefully joined her creator and her husband Alfonso De Lange, Sr.

She Lived A Long, Full And Selfless Life And Was Deeply Loved By Her Family And Friends

She is survived by her children Al and Kay De Lange, Dinda and Mike Mallari, and her sister Mercedes Nakpil Zialcita and cousin Antonia Nakpil Escaler

Grandchildren

Kristy and Roby, Tomas and Jingle, Nicky and Rosanne, Patrick, Mark and Alexie, Michelle and Manoling, Nicolette

Great-grandchildren

Kiko, Mica, Yana, Doy, Nachi, Angela, Jaime, Gab, Cio, Miguel, Celine, Cesca, Manolo and Dedes.

Her remains will be at the Capilla de San Francisco, Sanctuario de San Antonio on Sunday, July 17 from 10 A.M.-10 P.M. Interment will be after the 10:00 mass on Monday July 18.

CLASSIFIEDS

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 70, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City
TIN 000-784-336-000

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) through its Bidding and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of:

35,000 bags UREA FERTILIZER
(RE-BIDDING)
Commercial Grade – 46-0-0
"PRILLED" Type
Packed in 50-kilo bags lined with plastic
for Sugar-ACEF Related Projects
To be delivered to BAIS-URSUMCO, Luca Port, Tanjay, Negros Oriental
Approved Budget for the Contract – Php 22, 929,850.00

Schedule of Bidding Activities

Issuance of Eligibility & Bidding Documents	July 19, 2005 – August 5, 2005 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. SRA Bidding Secretariat 3rd Floor Annex Building Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City for a non-refundable fee of Php 2,000.00
Pre-Bid Conference	August 11, 2005 9:00 A.M. Training Room, Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Submission & Opening of Eligibility & Bid Envelopes	August 25, 2005 9:00 A.M. Training Room, Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

For particulars, please contact:

The Bidding Secretariat – Telephone No. 929-68-37

All particulars relative to the Eligibility, Bid bond, Pre-bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contracts shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and other applicable government rules and regulations.

The SRA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bids.

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein or accept any bid(s) or offer(s) which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

(Sgd.) JAMES C. LEDESMA
Administrator

(PDI - July 16 & 23, 2005)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 70, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City
TIN 000-784-336-000

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) through its Bidding and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of the following items to be delivered to different points in the Philippines:

FARM MACHINERIES, IMPLEMENTS AND VEHICLES
(BRAND NEW AND RECONDITIONED)
for Sugar-ACEF Related Projects
Approved Budget for the Contract – Php 6,073,835.00

Schedule of Bidding Activities

Issuance of Eligibility & Bidding Documents	July 4-22, 2005 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. SRA Bidding Secretariat 3rd Floor Annex Building Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City for a non-refundable fee of Php 2,000.00
Pre-Bid Conference	July 27, 2005 9:00 A.M. Training Room, Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Submission and Opening of Eligibility & Bid Envelopes	August 9, 2005 9:00 A.M. Training Room, Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

For particulars, please contact:

The Bidding Secretariat – Telephone No. 929-68-37

All particulars relative to the Eligibility, Bid bond, Pre-bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contracts shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and other applicable government rules and regulations.

The SRA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bids.

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein or accept any bid(s) or offer(s) which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

(Sgd.) JAMES C. LEDESMA
Administrator

(PDI – July 2 & 9, 2005)

ERRATUM

In the ad of SUGAR REGUATORY ADMINISTRATION re: Invitation to apply for Eligibility and to Bid published in this newspaper last July 2 and 9, 2005, the following details were not published:

Submission & Opening of Eligibility & Bid Envelopes
August 9, 2005
9:00 a.m.
Training Room, Sugar Regulatory Administration
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

Our Apologies.

(PDI - July 16, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON AUDIT
Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Commission on Audit is inviting all interested and legitimate suppliers to apply for eligibility and submit bid proposals for:

Description	Approved Budget for the Contract
8 units Finger Scan/Biometric **1 unit ID Card Printer**	**P 1,740,956.00**

Eligibility check, evaluation of bids and post-qualification shall be in accordance with the applicable provisions of RA 9184 and its implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), and are contained in the Bid Documents which may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat, c/o Ms. Jocelyn Marilou C. Gamboa, Procurement Division, COA Central Office, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of one thousand seven hundred Pesos (P1,700.00).

A pre-bid conference shall be held at 2:00 PM on August 5, 2005 at the BAC Office, old SAADO Bldg., COA Central Office. Deadline for submission of Eligibility Documents and Bids shall be at 2:00 PM of August 18, 2005. Opening of bids shall follow immediately.

The Commission reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to abort the bidding process, waive any minor defect in the bids received, and to accept the most advantageous bid.

For inquiries, please call the BAC Secretariat at Tele Fax No. 931-7582 / 9302.

(Sgd.) ARCADIO B. CUENCO, JR.
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – July 16, 2005)

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INFIGHTING AT THE EQUITABLE-PCI BANK

BSP takes turn to bar Romulo from bank board

By Daxim L. Lucas
and Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE GO family's tenuous hold on Equitable PCI Bank yesterday suffered another blow after financial regulators barred a key ally from sitting on the bank's board of directors.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' decision echoes a ruling issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission earlier this week disqualifying Roberto R. Romulo as one of the bank's independent directors due to perceived conflicts of interest.

Romulo said in a press briefing that he was "surprised" by the central bank's decision, assailing the regulator's lack of due process.

At its regular meeting last Thursday, the policy-making Monetary Board decided that Romulo "does not possess the qualification of an independent director of Equitable PCI Bank" as outlined in the regulator's guidelines on corporate governance.

"[Romulo] has been chairman of the board of Equitable Card Network Inc. (ECNI) from 1997 up to 2004," which is also an executive position in the firm, according to a letter sent by the central bank to Equitable PCI Bank president and CEO Rene Buenaventura.

Bias

In addition, Romulo is also "considered to be acting as representative of the Go family, a substantial shareholder of Equitable PCI Bank, since he is concurrently chairman of Equicom Systems Management Inc. (ESMI) and has been chairman of ECNI, which are both Go family-controlled companies," said Leny Silvestre, Supervision and Examination Department acting director.

The disqualification ruling came after Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) president and general manager Winston Garcia questioned before the Monetary Board Romulo's qualifications as one of the bank's two independent directors for his alleged pro-Go family bias on board matters.

Romulo said BSP's decision, coming on the heels of a similar SEC decision, was a "curious coincidence."

"I will tell you first of all that I was disqualified [by the] SEC without due process," he told reporters. "And then now, this 11th-hour disqualification. I'm very impressed at how ... the bureaucracy can act with alacrity these days."

It is unclear whether BSP has disqualified Romulo as an independent director in his current term, which expires on the bank's annual stockholders' meeting on Tuesday, or if it merely bars him from being reappointed as independent director for another term.

Allegations

This ambiguity could still determine the balance of power on the bank's board since it will meet one more time to decide on the final list of board nominees that will be presented before stockholders next week.

"I'm just going to leave it up to the lawyers to resolve this," Romulo said. "I believe I can defend my position as an independent director."

The Go family—which founded Equitable PCI Bank—owns only 25 percent of its outstanding shares, but dominates the bank's board and controls its management.

The Social Security System and GSIS own a combined 40-percent stake, but have been stifled from exercising control of the bank amid allegations that they are colluding to sell the bank to the Sy family, which owns Banco de Oro Universal Bank.

Yesterday, Banco de Oro officials declared that they were keen on merging with Equitable PCI Bank.

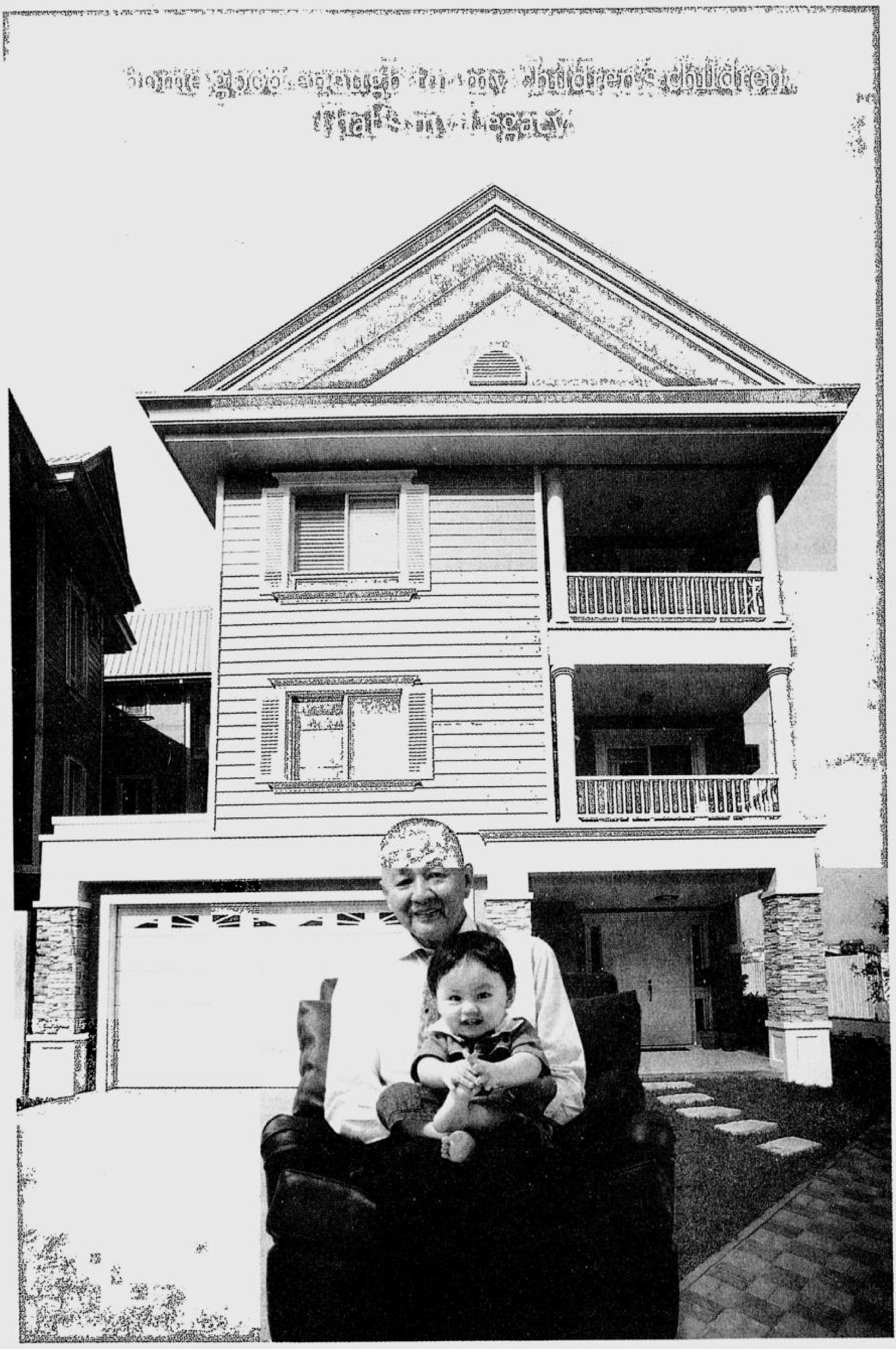
Three-way merger

According to BDO president Nestor Tan, Banco de Oro hopes to consolidate with the country's fourth largest bank in terms of assets under management, and the third largest in terms of loans.

But Tan added that they are not interested in a three-way merger with China Banking Corp.

"We will think about it," Henry Sy Jr. replied when asked about the three-way merger.

Sy is co-vice chair of SM Investments Corp. and a director of Chinabank.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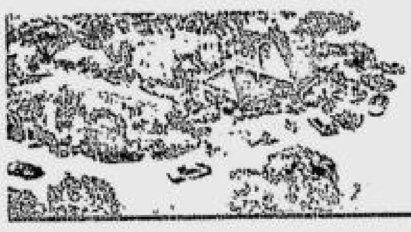
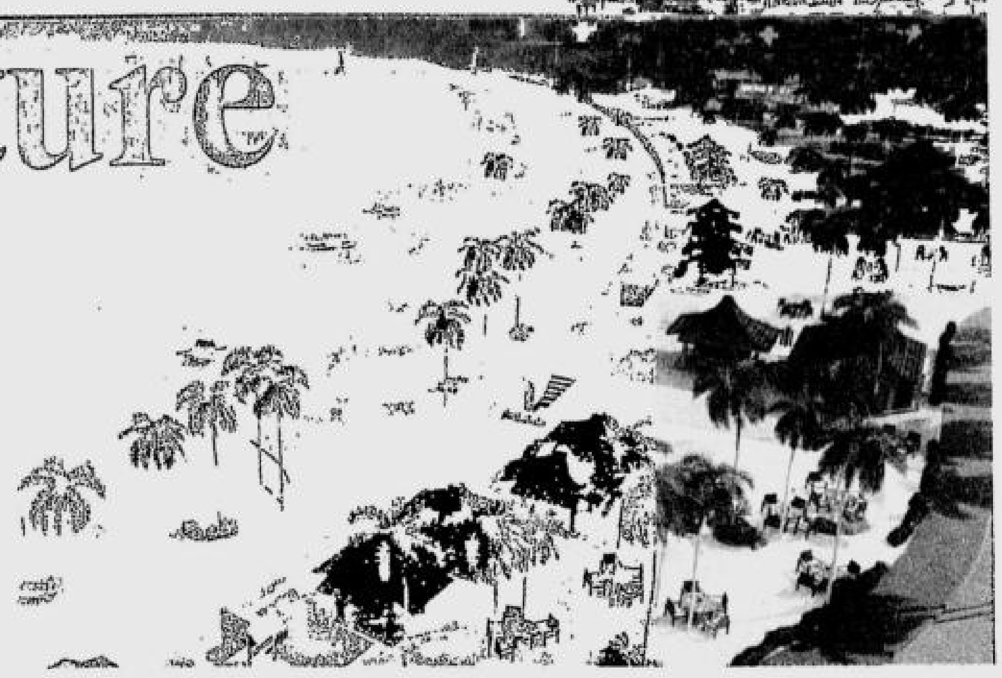


PROPERTY

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

Ayala Land preserves nature with first beach resort, residential project



By Tessa R. Salazar

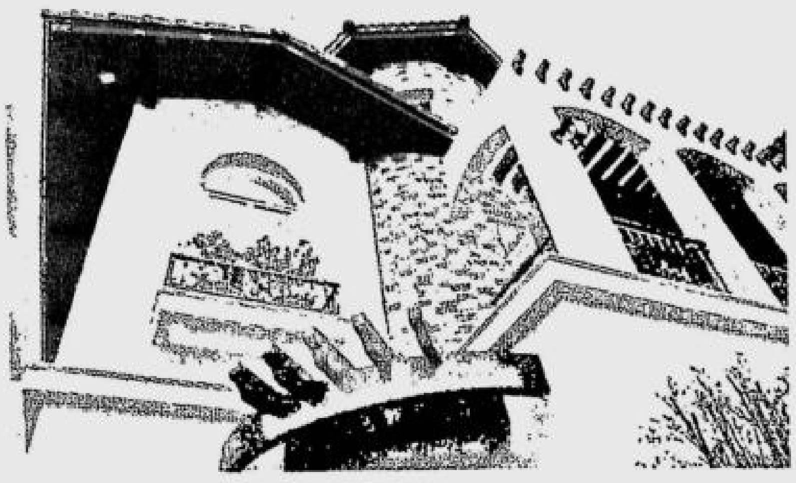
THE BEST beaches in the world are those with humans intervening the least.

For Ayala Land Inc, this is the driving idea as it ventures for the first time in a 320-hectare beach resort-nature club-cum-residential development in Morong, Bataan called Anvaya Cove.

But the minimalist philosophy doesn't come cheap—ALI has poured in P3.2 billion in investments—and not all of that will be used in developing the residential side. The natural beach sand is untouched, but the developer has also poured on river sand to create a second layer for what it calls a "recreated beach."

The developer has also taken the

AYALA LAND/ B2-2



The exteriors of the homes at Courtyards of Portofino are in bright sun-drenched colors using various textures similar to courtyard homes in Italy.

Brittany's Courtyards of Portofino: A Romantic Interlude

Imagine being with a loved one under the canopy of a clear, starry moonlit night. The evening is cool. The air is crisp. The wind blows softly, gently. It is idyllic, romantic...right out of the pages of a novel.

Now think about enjoying this moment, the romance of the outdoors, right inside your home.

This is the experience enjoyed at Courtyards of Portofino. A courtyard inside the homes provides a private, romantic nook from which to enjoy a cool starry night or a warm sunny day.

The courtyard: in tune with classic Italian design

The philosopher Socrates describes the courtyard with a lyrical quality, calling it a section of the home that is in harmony with the sun and moon and the entire home.

An Italian architectural masterwork, the courtyard can be likened to a musical masterpiece: the romantic interlude that bridges the main composition that is your home.

Presently four courtyard homes are available: Rembrandt (260 sq. m. floor area), Raphael (249 sq. m. floor area), Cézanne (193 sq. m. floor area) and Monet (233 sq. m. floor area).

A masterpiece of Italian architecture

The homes at Courtyards of Portofino take design cues from Italy's courtyard homes.

Colors are sun-drenched. Bright yellows. Subdued reds. Light woods. Stone cladding adds texture and contrast. Archways and cupolas are distinctively old world Italy.

The master craftsmen

A team of the country's top craftsmen in property development worked together with Brittany to create the quaint magnificence of the Courtyards of Portofino.

The interiors were meticulously researched and crafted by Cynthia and Ivy Almario of Atelier Almario, so the homes are built for comfort, space and Italian style.

The architecture, designed in collaboration with Recio + Casas, is created with an eye towards emulating the magnificence of homes in Italy.

The landscaping, flourishing with greenery and accented by ornate Italian fountains, benches and charming cobblestone paths, is by Benny Velasco of FN Velasco and Jojo Lazaro of Ground Works.

Inside, the courtyard homes are designed with elegant Italian architectural details, including large windows, light-colored walls, wood floors and rounded corners.

From design to execution, Brittany maintains a guiding hand and a keen eye as it realizes its vision for a unique lifescape with the concept of courtyards within a courtyard.

Put together, the verdant landscape, the classic courtyard homes, and the elegant interiors create a scenic setting, where nature and man-made homes become an Italian orchestration punctuated by the romantic interlude of the courtyard.

The courtyard: a private, romantic nook, a high note in the home's design.

Socrates describes the courtyard with a lyrical quality, calling it a section of the home that is in harmony with the sun and moon and the entire home

Feel the romance of the Courtyards of Portofino. Get a Property Preview. Call 850 2868 or 850 6986. Click www.brittany.com.ph.

Rembrandt, the largest of the model homes, features a distinctively Italian cupola and arches.

The greenest, most energy-efficient buildings in Asean

(First of three parts)

A GREEN university complex in a lush tropical setting, a unique skyscraper inspired by a new sprout of bamboo, an exceptionally green headquarters built with some materials made of company raw materials, a mountain resort that exemplifies eco-tourism principles, a botanic garden with outstanding passive features. These are the top winning entries in the 2005 Asean Energy Efficiency and Conservation Best Practice Competition for Energy Efficient Buildings.

The Asean Energy Awards, started in 2000 and running up to 2009, is Southeast Asia's prestigious annual awards program that recognizes outstanding work for excellence, creativity, practicality and dedication to a cause in the field of energy. Competing entries are prequalified by the Department of Energy in each country. Awardees are chosen through a competition by a board of judges, made up of one representative from each member-country of Asean, namely Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Categories

There are four categories in the competition namely:

- New and existing building
- Retrofitted building
- Tropical building
- Special submission

Definition of categories

- New and Existing Buildings

Open Category. Buildings must not be more than 5 years old.

- Tropical Buildings

Open category. Air-conditioning of less than 50 percent of total gross floor area; emphasis on effective use of passive design; not less than gross floor area of 500 square meters excluding car park; exclude religious buildings; building must not be more than 15 years old.

- Retrofitted Buildings

This category refers to buildings wherein major changes and improvements have been introduced to improve energy efficiency; the age of the building must be more than 5 years.

- Special Submission

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amado de Jesus

This category refers to special projects that study, apply and/or develop innovative use of technologies (including R&D projects) applied to reduce energy consumption in buildings. The aim is to promote the development of innovative energy efficiency-related solutions.

Building types qualified for the competition

Offices, schools, libraries, retail/shopping malls, hotels and hospitals have been selected as building types due to their predictable hours of operation.

Prequalification requirements

Candidates should pass the prequalification criteria that include the minimum energy efficiency standards set and established by the Asean regional board of judges. The energy audit conducted by the Department of Energy, at no cost to the applicant for joining the competition, is a basic requirement to record energy efficiency and conservation measures employed, and to determine their effectiveness.

Purpose of competition

The competition aims to provide international prominence and recognition to outstanding companies and individuals that consciously apply the concepts, systems and technologies of Energy Efficiency and Conservation. This is a recognition program for energy efficient buildings to become showcases for others to replicate and promote energy management programs in the building sector.

New, existing bldg. category

Singapore—winner

Topping this year's awards is Singapore's National Institute of Education. The university, built on a 16-hectare complex, has six major buildings with a total floor area of over 100,000 square meters. The campus, which has been developed to achieve a truly tropical green setting and environment, features a main entrance water feature and landscape, an eco-pond, central plaza, a large 1.2-hectare preserved forest and a manmade forest.

The buildings have been designed with overhangs to protect the buildings and window openings from direct sunlight. Aluminum sunscreens have been used extensively for single-loaded arcades and corridors to cut off direct sunlight while providing natural ventilation.

Skylights have been incorporated for the lobbies and stairwell to reduce dependence on artificial lighting.

Some notable features of the university involve rainwater collection, a waste management, upgrading of the air-conditioning system, lighting system, including installation of a building management system (BMS) and a card access system for facilities booking to control the lighting and air-conditioning of the lecture theaters, sports hall, etc.

Malaysia—first runner-up

The first runner-up is Malaysia's Telekom Malaysia Headquarters Building. The shape of the tower was strongly influenced by a new sprout of bamboo shooting up from the earth.

The main feature of the tower is the inclusion of skygardens or large open-air terraced gardens scaling the heights of the tower. These gardens serve as screens to filter out heat, light and noise for the workers in the building. The skygardens, located every third level in the tower and alternating from east to west, offer spaces for relaxation and informal meeting places. They also act as a refuge from the day to day stress of workers.

Through a combination of systems, the tower minimizes the energy required for the air-conditioning loads. Proper orientation, for example, along the east and west cuts down solar exposure. Aluminum louvres and skycourts also shade the offices without cutting down on daylight.

Other notable features of the tower are raised access flooring, generous window openings, underfloor air-conditioning system, centralized vacuum system, intelligent management building system (IBMS), and double decker elevators.

Philippines—second runner-up

SINGAPORE'S National Institute of Education is this year's winner in the new and existing building category. The university is built on a 16-hectare complex, with a truly tropical green setting and environment, a main entrance water feature and landscape, an eco-pond, central plaza, a large 1.2-hectare preserved forest and a man-made forest.

The second runner-up is Bayerhouse, Bayer Philippines. The entire building utilizes raised floor system for efficient and flexible office layout. Its windows are thermally insulated to cut energy consumption for heat ventilation air-conditioning and natural daylight use. Some of the building materials used are made of Bayer raw materials.

Clear Solarbel glass windows on the north side (front) with double façade at the south side (rear) minimize heat penetration.

An efficient waste segregation system is implemented at all times and wastewater is treated at the water treatment plant and reused for irrigating plants and for flushing in toilet bowls and urinals.

Other categories

Retrofitted bldg. category

Winner—Plaza BII Building, Indonesia

First runner-up—Sofitel Royal Angkor Hotel, Kingdom of Cambodia

Tropical building category

Winners

—Popa Mountain Resort, Myanmar

—The Singapore Botanic Garden, Singapore

Awarding of winners in this year's competition was held during the 23rd Asean Ministers of Energy Meeting Dinner and Asean Energy Awards Night at the Cambodia Cultural Village, Siem Reap, Cambodia on July 13, 2005.

To prequalify for the 2006 Asean Energy Awards, please call Marlon Domingo of the Department of Energy at 840-2243.

(The second and third part of this series will feature the winning entries of the retrofitted and tropical building categories.)

The author is the chair of the board of judges of the Asean Energy Awards 2005 and is a practising green architect. For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadodejesus@gmail.com.

Things to consider in doing a home makeover

THE RAINY season is here and the more time you spend at home, the more likely you'll realize that your house badly needs a makeover. Now that you have enough time, load up on patience, a dose of do-it-yourself panache and these tips from Handyman Do It Best Home Center:

- **Take the first step.** The best time to begin is now—while you have enough time and while Handyman's Home Solutions Sale is still on (until July 28!). Note which areas need makeover and do a reality check in terms of feasibility, expense and manpower.
- **Hue-nify.** Color is one of the most inexpensive tricks to change the look of one area. If you think the whole house doesn't need a total repainting, just do accents on a particular wall which will serve as your focal point. Quality paints and extra color options are available at Handyman Do It Best Paint Center (Handyman Do It Center in Robinsons Place Pioneer, Handyman Do It Best Home Center in Festival Mall and Robinsons Place Ermita). For innovative "paint-like-a-pro" techniques, check out the free painting workshops in selected Handyman branches this month.
- **Check your lights.** To get the best lighting for your home, analyze your space in terms of function, style, special fixture and architectural features, seating areas and mood. Handyman offers a lot of practical choices to achieve that perfect lighting effect for your home.
- **Security check.** While doing a home makeover, it is also a good idea to check whether you need to replace a jiggling knob. As long as your door is of standard size, finding an exact same fit will be easy. But do you want the conventional round-shaped knob or the one that locks from the outside? Test the new knob before closing the door and locking yourself in. If the new one works well, give yourself a pat on the back; nothing beats being safe and secured in your own home.
- **Shake things a bit.** Regroup—stuff should go together according to color or material. If you collect colored bottles or stones, put them in one place to add zest to the house. Reposition—furniture of the same purpose or activity should go together. Be focused on what you want to achieve otherwise, you'll keep moving things around and end up as confused as the room.

Handyman Do It Best Home Center and Handyman Do It Center offer free workshops. For venues and schedules, call 395-5249 or link up to www.handyman.com.ph.

Crown Asia launches 5 new prime residential estates

AFTER YEARS of striving in their respective careers, hardworking individuals desire a stable future for their family and to reside in a comfortable home amid an ideal environment to raise children. But with the metro's swelling population and packed concrete jungle, thousands of families find haven in the skirts of the metropolis to evade its aggravations.

Heading to the north and south of the metro, Crown Asia enhances its already prestigious list of masterplanned communities with the unveiling of new prime residential estates to improve the lifestyle and living conditions of every homeowner.

Fulfilling the lifelong dreams of thousands of families for a decade and still running, Crown Asia strengthens its track record as the country's largest residential developer with the launch of its five new themed neighborhoods—Amici in Bacoor, Cavite; Amalfi in Dasmariñas, Cavite; Residenza in Bacoor, Cavite; Valenza in Sta. Rosa, Laguna; and Woodberry in Antipolo, Rizal.

5 new communities

Crown Asia scoured the nation to find prime locations for carefully planned and themed communities that are distinguished from other residential developments. Evoking distinct influences with the ingenious architecture of each home and layout of every neighborhood, each of Crown Asia's five new communities offer unique living options:

- **Amici.** Find complacence and the perfect companion in raising your children in Amici's secure and exclusive community. Understanding life's realities where both parents have to work for their family's future, Amici (meaning "friend" in Italian) is complementing the busy lifestyle of young couples with its strategic location in Bacoor, Cavite. Cavite's tranquil environment is maintained with the preservation of nature while enhanced with lush landscaping and homes with warm Mediterranean hues. Only five minutes away from Alabang and sited near Bacoor's conveniences, Amici is located on NIA Road and accessible via the Las Piñas-Muntinlupa-Laguna-Cavite Link Road (also known as Daang Hari). Distinguishing Amici from other developments are its five considerations—rudiments revolving around the needs and realities of young couples: security, inward design format, neighborly home designs, practical features, and exclusive amenities.
- **Amalfi.** Inspired by the scenic town of Amalfi Coast in Campania, Italy, Crown Asia's interpretation of the popular holiday destination creates a resort-like community in Dasmariñas, Cavite. Accessible via three routes, through Aguinaldo highway, Daang Hari-Molino Road and Southwoods to Carmona exit, Amalfi is only a few minutes drive to neighboring leisure destinations in Tagaytay and Laguna. Practical conveniences surround the neighborhood while St. Paul's College can be found within the community's enclave. A 10-hectare enclave, its residents experience holiday retreat 365 days a year with its picturesque surroundings, cozy atmosphere and complete amenities.
- **Residenza.** Already a thriving community sited in the bustling urban area of Bacoor, Cavite, Residenza offers a unique combination of inspirations. Its primary inspiration is Italy's industrial capital, the Lombardy region, which was dominated by the Spanish from 1535 to 1700. This brings on Residenza's combination of two architectural genres which come from different cultures—the Italians' "la dolce vita" (meaning "sweet life") and the Spanish's "caledad de vida" (meaning "quality of life"). Residenza is only 30 minutes away from the commercial and business centers in Makati and accessible via Aguinaldo Highway-Coastal Road.
- **Valenza.** For young couples and singles desiring to escape the bustling metropolis while enjoying the comforts of the urban lifestyle, Valenza (meaning "value" in Italian) is a quaint community located in the lush foothills of Santa Rosa, Laguna. It is just a few minutes drive to Tagaytay for leisure yet only 20 minutes from the booming industry of Alabang for convenience. Italy's splendor is reflected with architectural accents and warm earth tones while complemented by the vista of Mt. Banahaw and Tagaytay Ridge. Whether in search of a place to come home to at the end of the day or a weekend retreat, Valenza is truly an irresistible find in the south.
- **Woodberry.** Located at the peak of Antipolo, Rizal, Woodberry offers a picturesque hilltop neighborhood surrounded by mango orchards. Cool air constantly breezes the surroundings while a sweeping view of greens can be enjoyed by every resident. Strategically located, Woodberry boasts of the Assumption College across its gates while Ortigas can be reached in 20 minutes. The American-style homes at Woodberry feature picket fences, lush landscaping, and wide roads create a picture-perfect community.

Amenities, conveniences

Masterplanned by Crown Asia, each of the five communities feature exclusive amenities and conveniences—from clubhouses, swimming pools, basketball and tennis courts to commercial areas. The already beautiful outdoors are further enhanced with lush landscaping, parks, playgrounds, jogging paths and barbecue pits spread around the developments.

Guiding the thoughtful and effective masterplanning of past, present and future projects of Crown Asia are the five core values they persistently adhere to: greenery, security, choices, serenity and attainability.

Visit Amici, Amalfi, Residenza, Valenza, or Woodberry and discover Crown Asia's unending commitment in fulfilling the lifelong dreams of the Filipino family with continuous innovation. Property previews may be arranged by calling Crown Asia at 718-3400 and 718-3402.

Ayala Land preserves nature with first beach resort . . .

From page B2-1

responsibility for protecting the nesting grounds of giant sea turtles (*pawikans*) in the area. The presence of magnetites, somehow, has made detecting the nesting sites easier. Scientists theorize of a possible relationship between magnetites and birth locations of pawikans.

Stadium formation

Like a football stadium with the beach as the grid, the sloping land of the resort has a peak elevation of 135 meters (with the highest elevation at some cliffsides at 50 meters) at the farthest edges, and the gentle rolling 3.5-km coastal terrain is peppered with mango and narra trees. The Anvaya Cove has been determined by engineers as being stable land, as it lies on a bedrock, said Marivic Añonuevo, vice president and head of ALI leisure and lifestyle communities.

"The entrance of the resort is the highest peak and then you move down to the main beach resort," describes Añonuevo.

Plans for cliffside and forest paths to the beach are already afoot.

The elevation likewise allows for good views of Subic Bay as well as the Zambales and Bataan mountain ranges. In front of the resort is the Silangin mountain range of Zambales. At the back is Mt. Natib of Bataan, a favorite among local mountaineers.

"This is what is unique here. Some developments have (only) water. In our case, we have water and mountain ranges as views," said Beng Abella, Ayala Land senior division manager and head of project team Anvaya.

The beach club, which has its own lagoons, is a natural wetland, with water flowing through it from the higher elevated areas down to the sea. The lagoons were expanded to make more room for recreational activities such as fishing and RC boats.

This "50 percent man-made" lagoon is incorporated in the design of the clubhouse. Andy Locsin of LV Locsin and Partners said it has been reshaped to interact with the architecture.

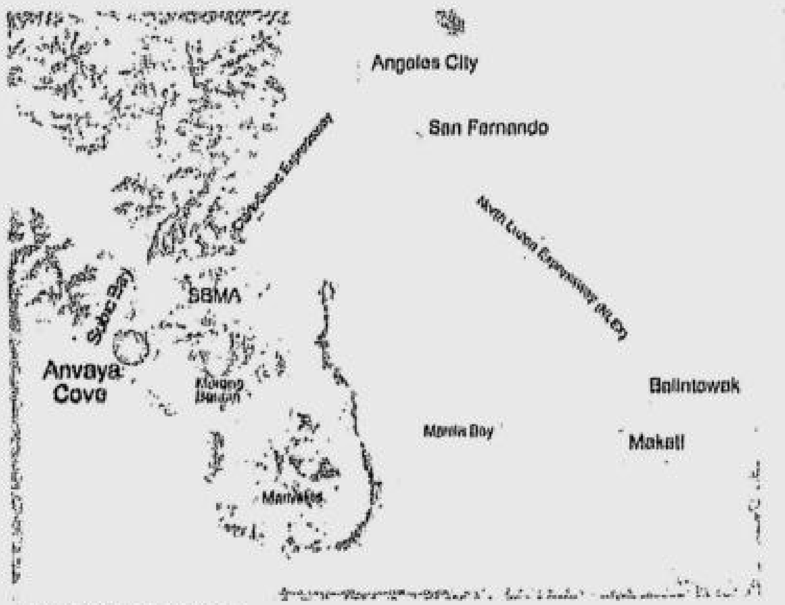
Harmonious fit

Locsin said the group wanted Anvaya Cove to look like it rose from the ground. The choice of materials and colors reflect a harmonious fit for its natural surroundings.

"We tried to do minimal cut and build, and tried to respect the lay of the land, so it feels like the architecture is of the place. There was a very strong feeling not to overwhelm what is naturally there, so colors and structures almost disappear into the landscape and feel like they've always been part of the setting. It's not about conquering nature, but living with it," he explained.

Locsin said another principle implemented to protect the site's natural features is cluster development. Instead of a vertical structure for a hotel, there would be multidwelling units.

Locsin stressed Ayala's project is giving due respect to the environment.



ANVAYA vicinity map

"We agreed on a philosophy wherein when you leave this earth, you should leave the smallest possible footprint."

Not another Boracay

Just like any Ayala property, sanitation and sewerage is given special attention. Each home in Anvaya will discharge effluents into a sewage treatment plant for processing. What comes out is clean, pollution-free water.

The sewage flows away from the sea. Pumps have been installed to "break the law of gravity" and pull sewage up to the treatment plants. Nothing is discharged into the sea.

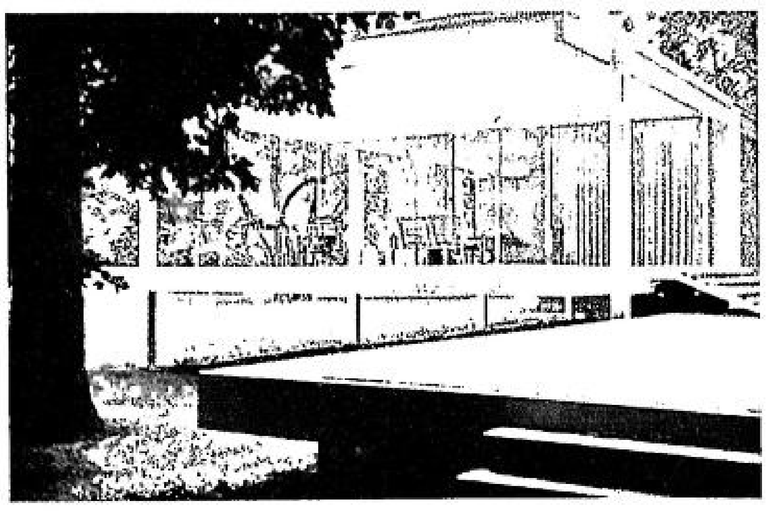
From the ancient Sanskrit term that means "family," Anvaya Cove addresses the untapped needs of Filipino families living in luxury resorts.

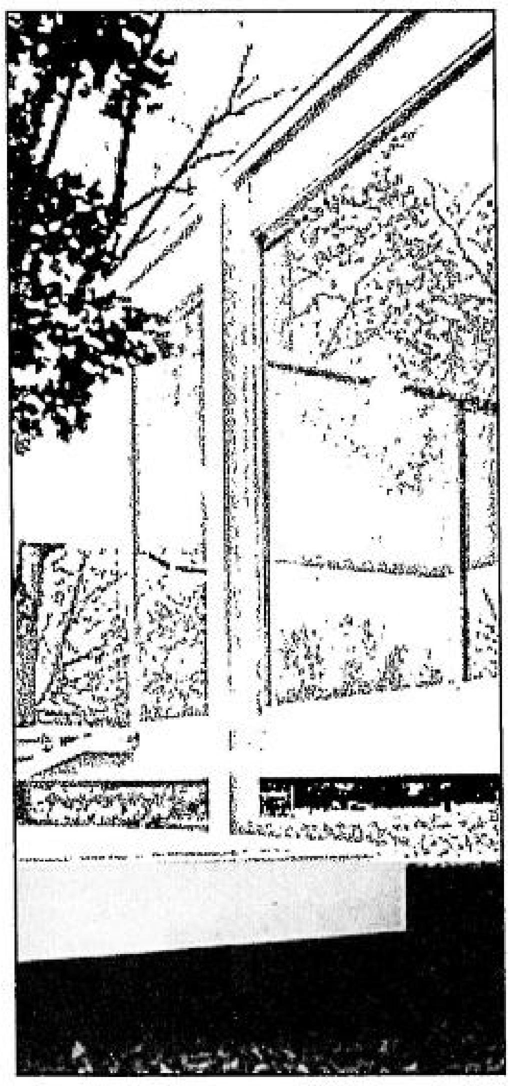
The target markets are Double A and Triple A families—full nesters and early retirees.

"It would be a second home. We are not envisioning it as a primary home," said Abella.

Ayala Land spent two years surveying suitable areas to be developed into its first resort. It initially scouted parts in the south, particularly Batangas.

But then the North Luzon Expressway started making significant improvements, and the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway project started in earnest with its groundbreaking, Ayala Land then accepted a site offer in its present location.





LUDWIG Mies van der Rohe's Farnsworth House is often described as "possibly the fullest expression of modernist ideals."

AMAZING STRUCTURES

Farnsworth House

SOME of us often find delight in aquariums, idling away while watching those really cute guppies swim around and around that glass enclosure. But have you ever imagined how's it like living in an aquarium-like house?

Built by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe as a weekend retreat for Dr. Edith Farnsworth, hence the name Farnsworth House, the transparent glass house is often described as "possibly the fullest expression of modernist ideals." The one-story house, which stands on an isolated site in Plano, Illinois, has a rectangular. shape with eight steel columns set in two parallel rows. Two steel-framed slabs, which serve as the house's ceiling and roof, are suspended between the columns.

All the exterior walls are made of glass while the interior is entirely open except, of course, for two bathrooms contained in a wood paneled area. The floors and exterior decks are made of Italian travertine limestone. The polished white color of the steel, which is also sanded smooth, contrasts to the dark and winding trunks of the surrounding trees.

Uncluttered, puritan

As if the Farnsworth House's design is not noticeable enough, parts and pieces commonly present in a typical house such as doors, interior trim, unnecessary furniture and personal effects are also purposely left out, perhaps to give more emphasis to the house's feel of being uncluttered and puritan. And since it is raised 5 feet and 3 inches above the ground, one climbs a low, broad set of stairs to a simple deck and another similar set of stairs to an outdoor porch to enter the house.

It took Van der Rohe six years to design and build the house and was completed in 1951. It is said that Dr. Farnsworth didn't care so much for it although it has been meticulously maintained and restored. In 1972, the Farnsworth House was bought by Britain's Lord Palumbo who then commissioned the firm of Dirk Rohan, Mies van der Rohe's grandson, to restore the house to its original appearance.

Dianne M. Villafuerte

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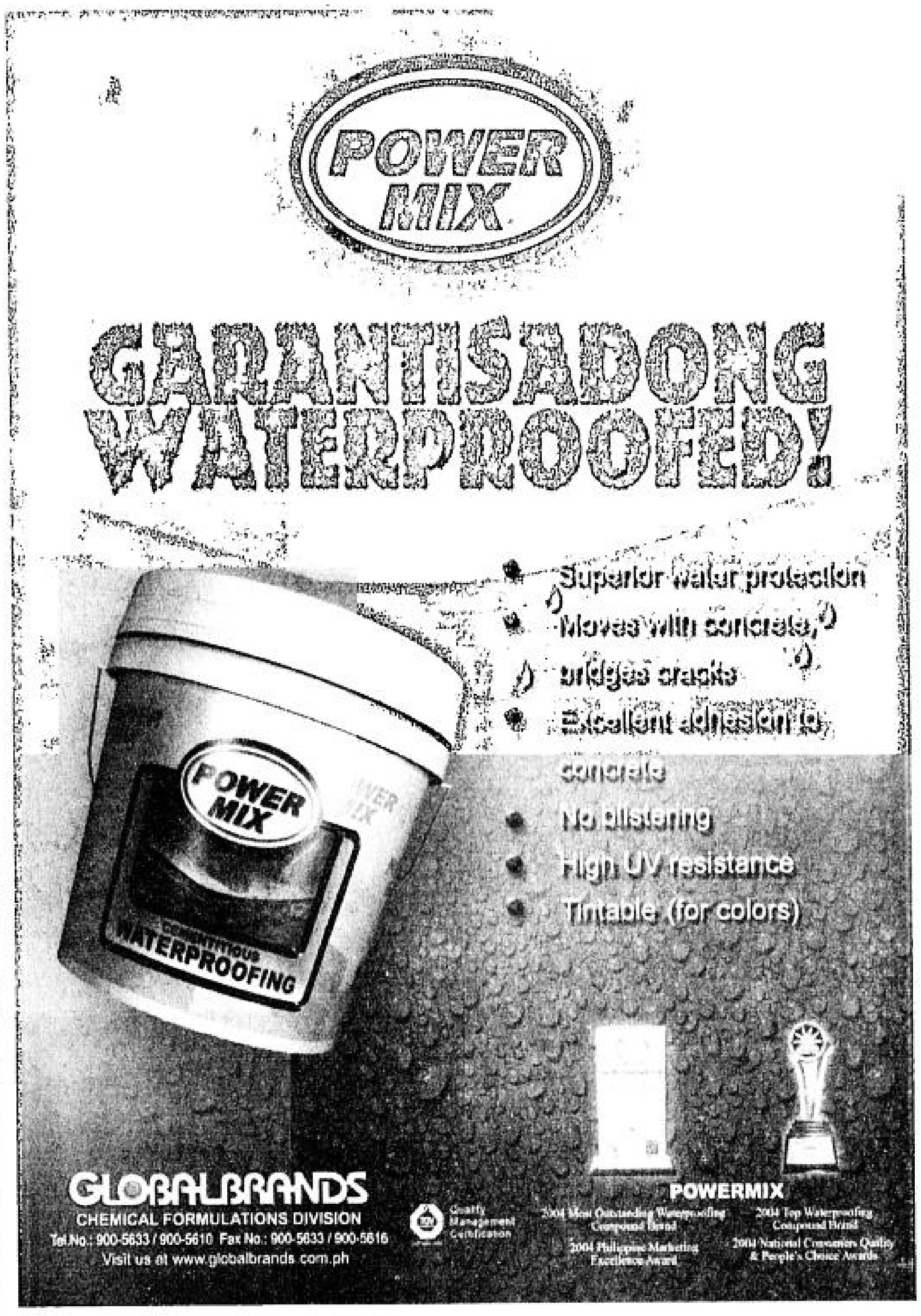

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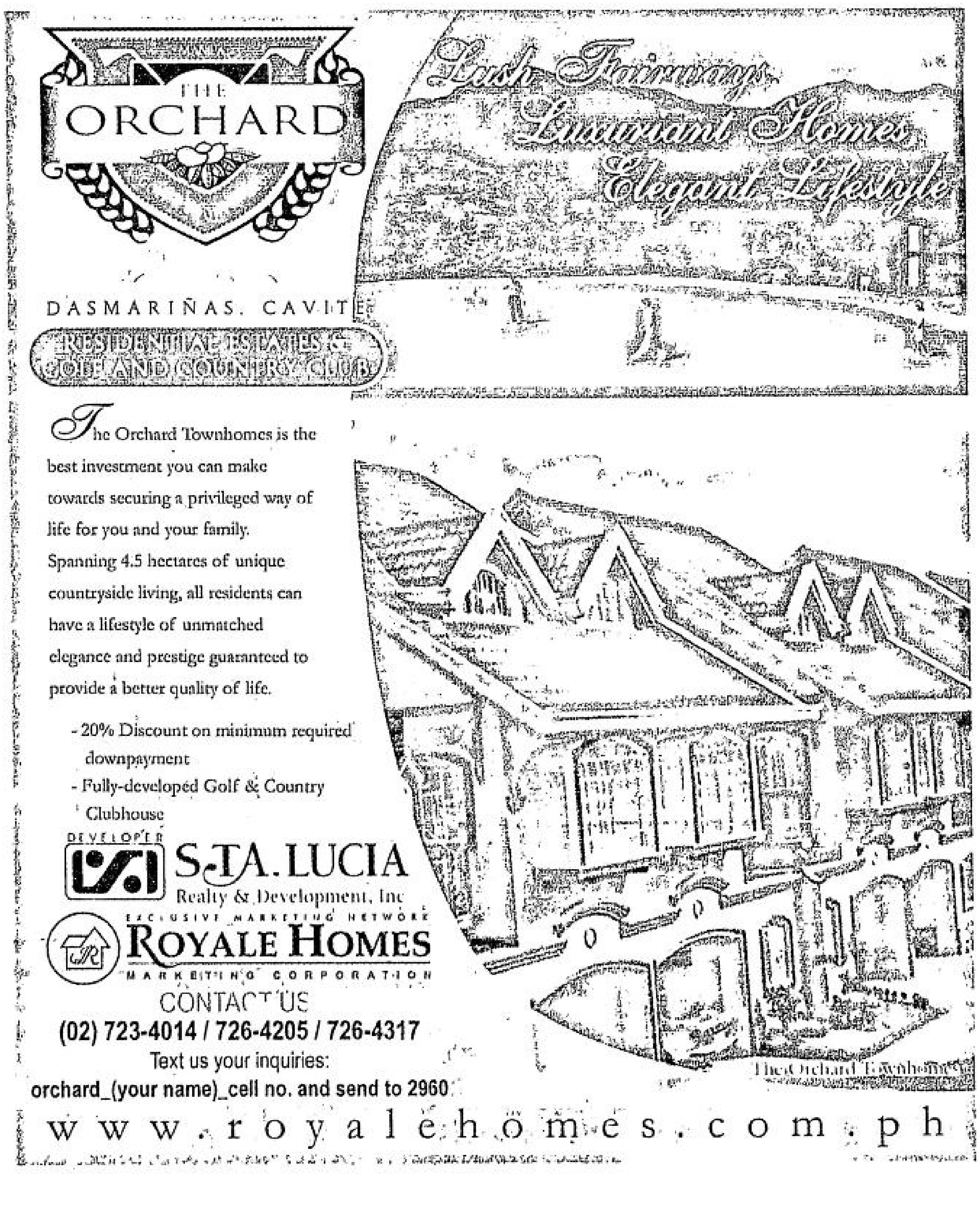

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Ponderosa unveils second themed garden

By Charles E. Buban

A GARDEN offers respite from urban clutter and chaos. It forms such an important element that developers nowadays spend time in creating one that would complement and lift the value of their residential project.

While most developers would settle on a single garden, Ponderosa Leisure Farms in Silang, Cavite, will showcase three themed gardens.

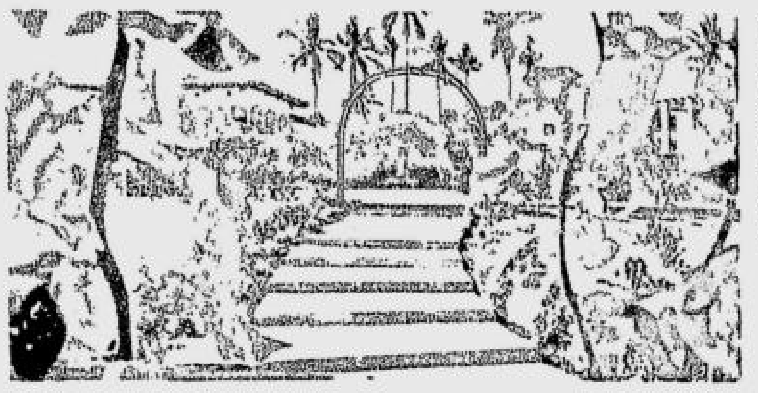
In fact, the Spanish-Mexican inspired flower garden residential development recently held a blessing of its second themed garden, the El Sanctuario.

"The 4,000-square-meter garden was created from scratch—no transplanted trees—and features pine forests, pergolas, a fernery, a gazebo and an enclosed area called the Secret Garden," reveals landowner Maria Luisa Perez-Rubio, who designed the garden.

EL SANCTUARIO is the second themed garden to be unveiled at Ponderosa Leisure Farms.

Moment's peace

The El Sanctuario is for people who want a moment's peace. At the center of this themed garden is a grotto featuring a Mexican version of Our Lady of Guadalupe, who serves as a patron saint of Mexico as well as the Philippines, who were both under Spanish rule once.



ITS centerpiece is a grotto featuring a Mexican version of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

"The grotto will also double as a venue for meditation, Holy Mass and even small weddings," Perez-Rubio says.

She adds that families who would like to hold picnics or small receptions may use the miniature pine forest at the El Sanctuario.

Different theme

Alfred Xerez-Burgos III, VP and strategic business unit head of Landco Pacific Corp., Ponderosa's developer, says the three gardens will offer the community different attractions.

"While the El Refugio, which was finished last year, features streams, a viewing deck, teahouse and kiosk, the El Sanctuario offers more solemn attractions. The third themed garden, the Campos Verdes will be more appealing to the more active members of the community since it will feature a fishing pond and an open space for barbecues and picnics," Xerez-Burgos reveals.

Also unveiled last year was the model house, Casa Ponderosa, a three-bedroom residential house with rustic Mexican-Spanish resort and farm feel, and with big windows overlooking scenic views.

Caters to urban dwellers

Ponderosa Leisure Farms caters to the need of urban dwellers who wish to spend some time away from the hustle of city life, according to Xeres-Burgos.

"Ponderosa is designed to be a second home, where families can retreat, especially on weekends, to enjoy each other's company in a conducive natural setting," says Xerez-Burgos.

The 53-hectare residential community developed by Landco Pacific in partnership with Ponderosa Farms, Inc. is scheduled to build other amenities such as the greenhouse for flower and ornamental activities, a commercial center, an outdoor restaurant and a clubhouse.

Landco Pacific is a major, multiproduct real estate development firm engaged in high-end residential resorts, leisure farms, first home residential developments, among others.

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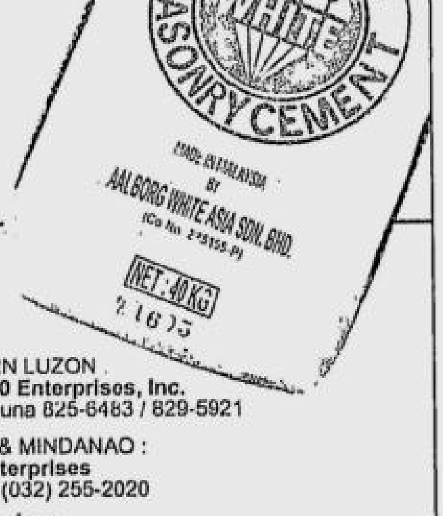

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La Marea introduces new models at Trails II

360° LIVING, a division of real estate maverick Brittany Corp., follows up on the success of Trails of La Marea at San Pedro, Laguna, with a new enclave—Trails II. As a masterplanned residential community inspired by American ranch-style homes to suit young urbanites seeking a comfortable lifestyle amid an ideal environment in which to raise children, Trails of La Marea further enhances its neighborhood with the launch of three new model homes for Trails II.

Recognizing the fact that raising children defines residents' priorities, needs and lifestyle, Trails II was developed with plans anchored around the family, with architecture and use of space creating nontraditional ambiance and configuration. A three-hectare enclave surrounded by the verdant greens of Laguna, Trails II is nestled within the 42-hectare residential estate of La Marea.

3 new models

Inspired by the warm reception for the first three models, Trails II presents three new models evoking a comfortable ambiance with its use of earth tones highlighted by golden hues and details reflecting the architecture of American ranch-style homes:

- **Tiara Piccolo.** For the Tiara Piccolo, sophisticated design is married with ingenious architecture to create comfortable living areas. It has three bedrooms, two toilet and baths, and a living area and floor area of 70 square meters on a minimum lot area of 110 sq m.
- **Paige.** Suiting the lifestyle of growing families, the Paige model is carefully designed to meet varying needs and tastes. It has three bedrooms, three toilet and baths, a maid's room and lanai and has a floor area of 107 sq m on a minimum lot area of 150 sq m.
- **Caitlin.** The largest of the three new models, Caitlin maximizes space with thoughtful design with three bedrooms, three toilets and baths, a maid's room and a terrace. It has a floor area of 160 sq m on a minimum lot area of 180 sq m.

TIARA Piccolo

Primary models

All sharing the distinct architecture of American ranch-style homes, the three new models of Trails II complement the primary models which attained great reception from the market; a testament to this is the growing list of homeowners who've chosen these primary models of Trails II:

- **Ungiolley.** Revealing a delightful interplay of space and height, it has a floor area of 160 sq m on 180-sq-m lot area priced at P5.5 million.
- **Alexandra.** Ingenious architecture and creative interior design maximize the model's floor area of 168 sq m on 180-sq-m lot with a price of P4.9 million.
- **Vittoria.** Offering plenty of room to complement the lifestyle of large families, it has a floor area of 188 sq m on 210-sq-m lot area while priced at P6.2 million.

Each of the six models incorporate nature's splendor in their designs.

'Creative living'

Trails II feature innovations that improve the quality of life of its residents and puts "creative living" within reach. These innovations include new designs for picket fences, stone cladding to enhance the look and value of homes, garbage bins, termite control and mail boxes.

Unique amenities and facilities will soon be available for residents of Trails II to complete its ideal environment. These include a Fern Garden that will be accessible via a hanging footbridge, butterfly sanctuary, pond, clubhouse and swimming pool. All these attractions will provide unending opportunities for residents to discover nature and will leave them no reason to go out of the community for leisure.

Trails II is only a 10-minute drive from the bustling corporate and commercial areas of Alabang and 8 minutes away from the booming industrial town and leisure destinations in Sta. Rosa. Its strategic location on the recently opened San Pedro exit of the South Luzon Tollway, makes Trails II "city close," removed yet not remote. Previews may be arranged by calling 360° Living at 842-1251 or 842-0436.

Commercial landmark expands with Greenfield City's Paseo 3

GREENFIELD City's commercial zone has added a third new phase to its Paseo de Santa Rosa commercial and retail town center. Paseo 3 is currently undergoing construction and will see a continuation of the exemplary conveniences of the commercial landmark. The brilliant merging of leisure, dining and shopping establishments is replicated to give newer options to the growing communities of Santa Rosa, Laguna.

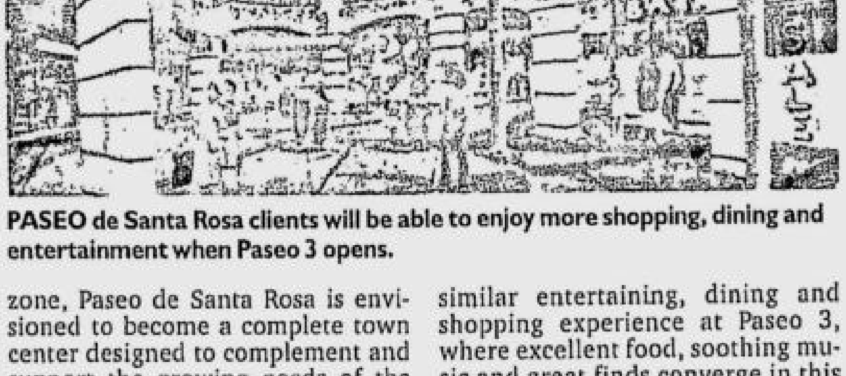
This expansion was brought about by an increasing demand for more commercial spaces, as well as tenants' and customers' favorable responses to Paseo 1 and 2. Paseo 3 offers additional space to prospective lessees who are interested to serve Sta. Rosa's growing population. The premier series of complexes is situated at an ideal business vantage point, as it is surrounded by carefully masterplanned Greenfield City's commercial, residential, recreational and industrial communities.

Complete town center

As the retail and commercial component of the thriving business zone, Paseo de Santa Rosa is envisioned to become a complete town center designed to complement and support the growing needs of the area with diverse services. Restaurants, sporting goods shops, banks, service centers, fast-food outlets, trade fairs, mini concerts and the Santa Rosa Country Market are just some of the well-received attractions of Paseo de Santa Rosa.

Patrons can look forward to a similar entertaining, dining and shopping experience at Paseo 3, where excellent food, soothing music and great finds converge in this flourishing business and residential environment.

For inquiries about leasing, call Greenfield Development Corp. at 631-8651, fax at 635-4501, e-mail at marketing@greenfield.com.ph, or log on to www.greenfield.com.ph for more details.



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SATURDAY, JULY 16, 2005

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C1

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Editor **Pam Pastor**
Creative Director **Tim Yap**

Super! Countdown
21

Super 1

style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation

reactivate

Read this and find your faith page C2

Meet the Fab Four–
Bianca Gonzales, Chase Tinio, Drew Arellano and Mariel Rodriguez
page D1

Do young people still care?
page C4

Produced by TIM YAP
Photography: FRANK HOEFSMITH
Clothes and styling: PUEY QUIÑONES
Hair and makeup: JIGS MAYUGA and YZA PALMERO of Shu Uemura
Cover Star: THE FAB FOUR

24/7 SUPER! EVENT GUIDE

Antidotes for the doldrums

By Paolo R. Reyes and Janine Cuenca-Dario

WITH gloomy clouds of political uncertainty growing more ominous each day, people have become inclined to partake in more sanguine pursuits. Fortunately, the events slated for the week ahead will surely work wonders for every world-weary soul. Consider our itinerary as an over-the-counter remedy to rejuvenate your jaded mind.

Operanow, 8:00 p.m. tonight

Witness three generations of classical artists perform together in Operanow, the Philippine Opera Company's concert gala to be staged tonight at the CCP Main Theater. Manila's top couturiers created contemporary costumes for the entire cast, which is top-billed by 30 of the finest Filipino opera performers. Proceeds will go to Cribs. Call 891-9999, 895-8097 or 832-3878.

Greater Love Concert, July 18

The Greater Love Concert on Monday, July 18, is a benefit event that aims to raise funds for Kythe, a foundation that aids children stricken with cancer. The concert will feature performances by Side A, South Border, Freestyle, U Turn, Paolo Santos, Pido, Nina, Nyoy Volante, Aliya Parcs, JM Rodriguez and others. 8:00 p.m. at The Rockwell Tent, Rockwell Center, Makati. Tickets at P750 and P500. Call 886-7869 or 0917-8516600.

Bellini Night @ Embassy, July 20

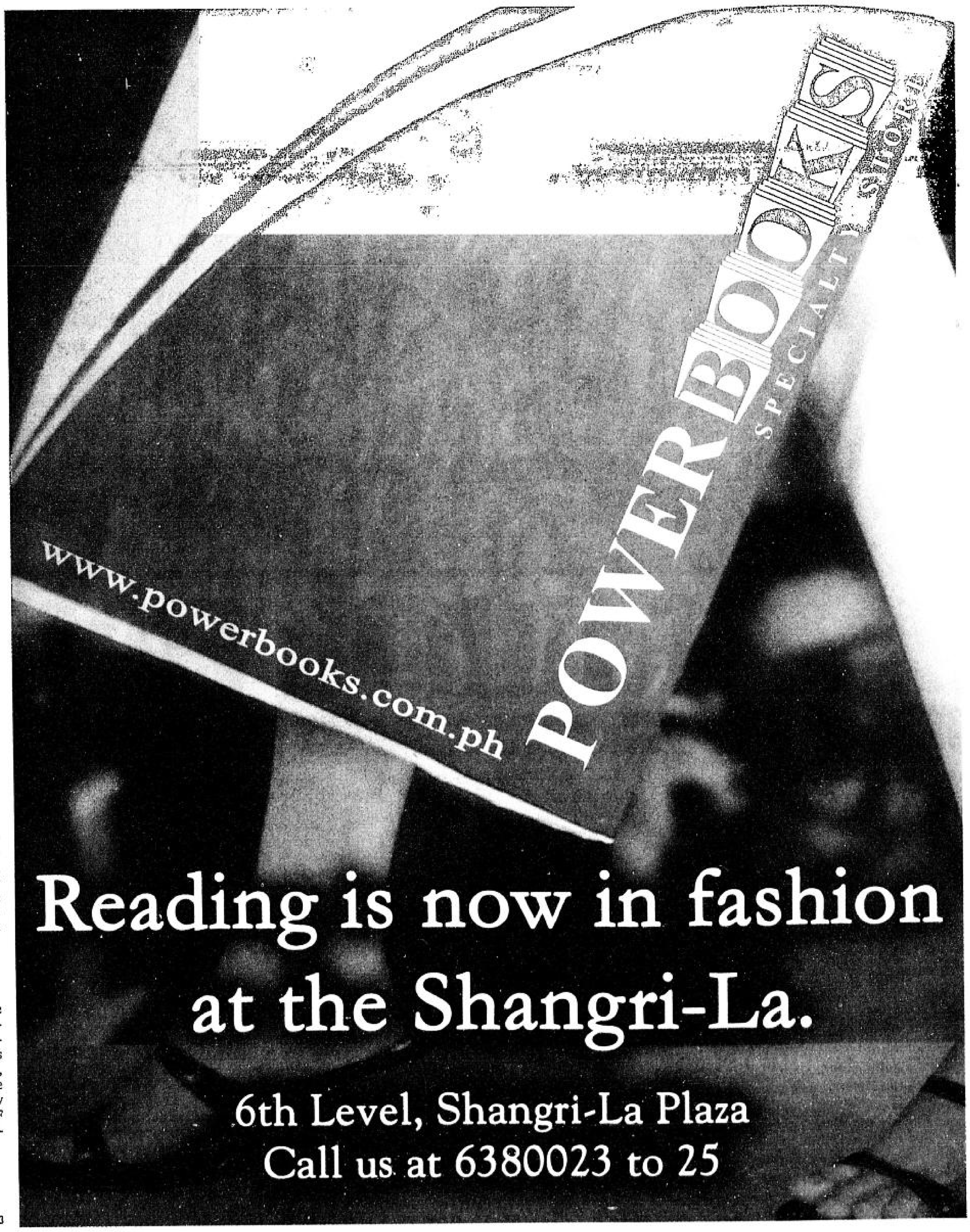
For some midweek lounging, head over to Embassy Cuisine for an after dinner affair featuring five original Bellinis, ranging from classic peach to tangy strawberry. Enjoy your drinks with chill house and chill out grooves by Superfly and Beats Per Minute (BPM). Every Wednesday night at 10:00 p.m. Call 816-4195 or email superflymanila@yahoo.com.

Come as You Are:
90s by Request, July 20

Gen-Xers everywhere are invited to Come As You Are: 90s by Request. Revisit the eclectic soundscape of the 90s by requesting anything from grunge to glam to gangsta rap, as well as 90s Dance, Nu Jack Swing, 90s R&B, alternative, and old school hip-hop. But, be warned: absolutely no boy bands. Every Wednesday, 6:00 PM onwards at Absinth, 3/F Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati. Call 757-4967.

Improv Comedy Night with SPIT, July 21

ANTIDOTES/ C3



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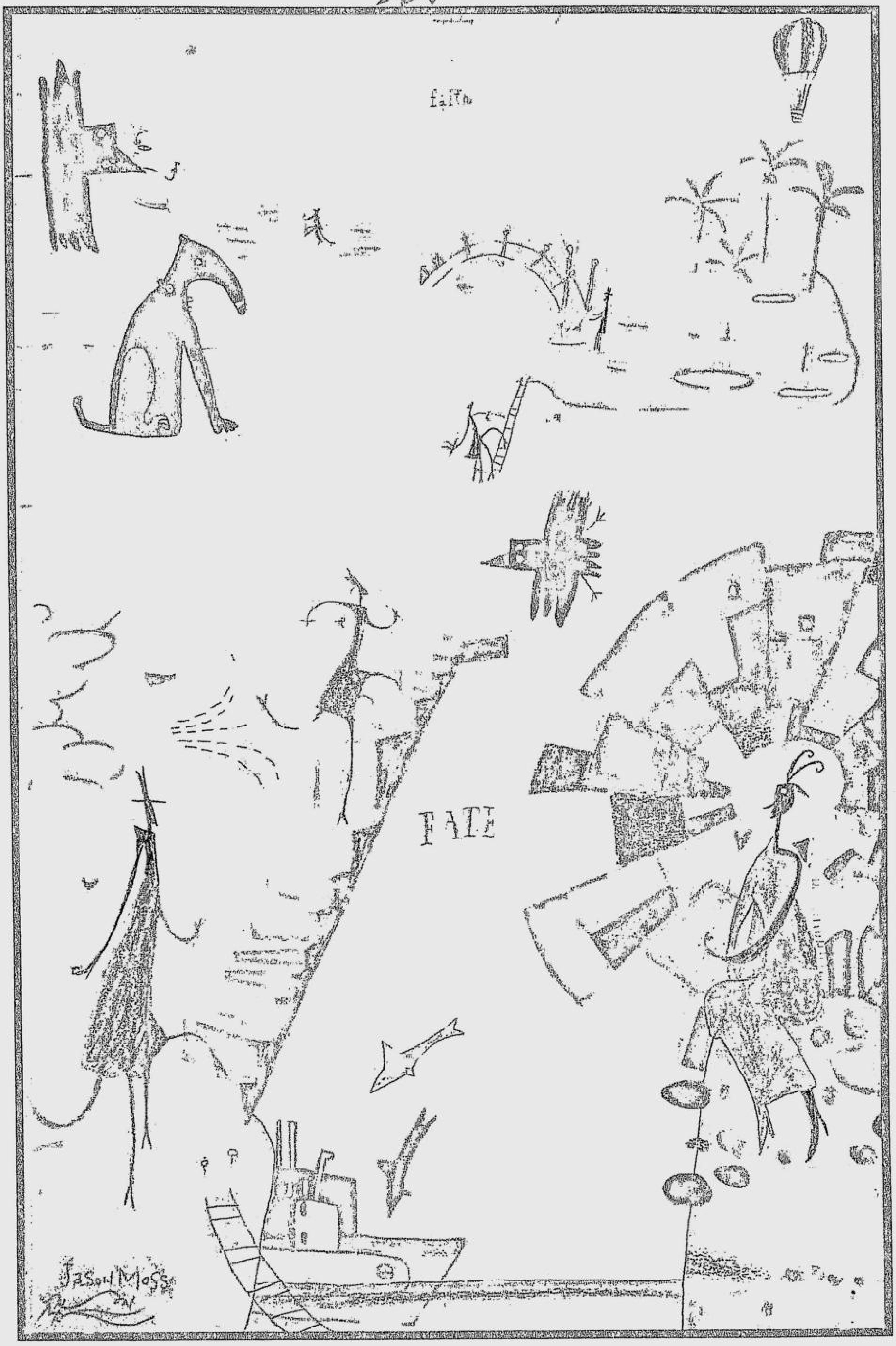


Faith in Fate

The question we should ask ourselves though is how much do we really want to know?

By Katrina A. Holigores
Original artwork by Jason Moss

ANY GREAT detective will ask himself a series of questions in order to solve a mystery. Fans of "CSI" are treated to theories in every episode as each forensics team double guesses the COD of their victims. We on the other hand, do not have the storyline and script written out for us, so we search endlessly for answers to our future. The question we should ask ourselves though is, how much do we really want to know? We are spoiled by a deluge of pirated DVDs which enable us to finish an entire season of a show without having to wait like the rest of the world. I admit that if I had to sit through "24" without finding out what happens in the next episode I would go mental. It is probably because we now have access to quicker answers (don't know something? Google it) that takes our attention away from the present and finds us fixated on how everything is going to turn out in the end.

Reality

Ok, here's the reality, there are no guarantees in life except one, we are ALL going to kick the bucket someday. So, what you do between today and bucket-kicking should be worth something. Here are some actions or attitudes that most of us are guilty of (myself included) : We want to be told the future, instead of being mindful of the present. We rely on others for answers instead of finding them on our own. We keep asking for advice, suggestions, people's opinions instead of trusting our own instinct. We preach, scold, reprimand, are quick to come to judgment and forget how much we resent being on the receiving end. We boast of being more "spiritual" than religious, yet not really sure what either means. We compare, compete with those around us later realizing that there is really nothing to be won. We let the fear of loss outweigh all other feelings and deny ourselves a life lived to the fullest. (Risks have to be taken every now and then you know)

If one or two, or all of the above ring a familiar bell in your head, not to worry, you're just as human as the person next to you. What supposedly separates an adult from a child is being able to believe in something that is intangible. To have faith or to trust in what the eye cannot see but what the heart, or for some, the soul can feel. There is an eastern philosophy that suggests when you "pray" you should simply say "I am grateful because everything I need is on its way to me." Oh, if only it were that easy to just trust in that and believe it to the hilt. If you are young, active, ambitious then just the thought of NOT HAVING TO WORK to get what you want is almost incomprehensible. Oftentimes we hold on desperately, needily to something we feel we cannot live without. When life forces you to let go you are often shocked at how much you didn't really need said thing (or person) at all. You see, Life is a lot smarter than we give it credit for. Fighting for something you believe in may just turn out to be defending one's pride. There are times when we really just have to surrender gracefully and allow things to take their course.

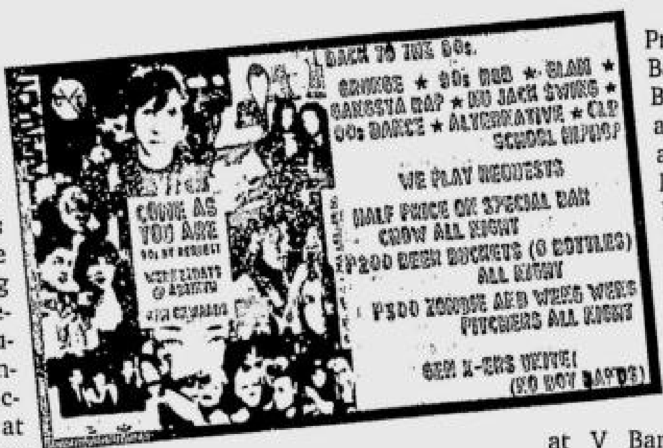
Religion

Religion may sometimes provide us with answers on what to expect down the line. For Christians if you follow what it says in the Bible, you go to Heaven, for Buddhists, it's about Karma and celebrating the Divinity in oneself and others, for the Hindus, how you live this life will determine what you will be reborn as in your next life. (Do you really really want to come back as a cockroach?) In Western astrology, your natal chart indicated the position of the planets on the day, hour, year and place of your birth. These planets are said to send energies that may influence your behavioral patterns throughout your life. All the practices mentioned above claim to be based on fact, but what keeps the believers going is faith.

It would be a lot easier if we used acceptance instead anger when things don't work out the way we expected. That actually surrendering to the notion that if it was meant for you it will come. Or even harder, that everything that happens in our life is absolutely perfect and happens at a perfect time. If we are to believe that there is something out there that is indeed concerned about our welfare then we should also believe that whatever hurdles we face are just part of the process, they are not there to turn us into miserable, bitter people. If this weekend you indeed choose to find your religion or revamp your faith in a Higher Plan, then I wish that everything you truly need is on a celestial express package enroute to you.

Antidotes for the doldrums

From page C1



This Thursday, witness celebrated comic troupe SPIT (The Silly People's Improv Theater) throw hilarious punch lines on the spot at their recurring weekly gig. No rehearsed skits or routines here, its all impromptu and interactive! 9:00 p.m. at Mag:net Café, Agcor Bldg., 335 Katipunan Ave., Q.C. Call 929-3191.

Jay Yao exhibit @ Silver Lens, July 22

Friday, July 22, is the opening of "The Possibilities of Ordinary Things," an exhibit featuring the fine art photographs of Jay Yao, a young Canadian-Filipino photographer based in New York. "The images are mainly about a journey, and of simple moments," explains Yao. The exhibit runs until Aug. 12 at the Silver Lens Gallery, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. Call 816-0044.

Other 24/7 Super! events:

July 16, Saturday

Iluminati Fashion Party at Fluid Lounge, Malate; Superfly Saturdays with Karl Ty at Maestro; Dip N' Drop at V Bar; Steve Mills at Temple; Dance Deluxe & Soundsgood DJs at Embassy; Tropical Depression at 70s Bistro; DJ Patch at Absinth; Mon David with Trilogy at Wasabi; Beauty and the Beast at Meralco Theater; Cinemalaya 2005 at CCP; DJ ScratchMark at Prince of Jaipur; Cocoy Puyat & Travis Monsod at Bed; Meat Packin' Saturdays at Government; Kuh Ledesma at Captain's Bar; U Turn at Bagaberde; Troy Montero at Ratsky's; Music Motion at Nicotina Garden Pavillon

July 17, Sunday

Indian Curry Buffet at Spices, Peninsula Manila; CouchLab DJs at Tiananmen Bar; Beauty and the Beast at Meralco Theater; Cinemalaya 2005 at CCP; St. Louis The Musical at UP Diliman; Pinoy Blonde at local theaters; Butch Baluyut Retrospective at CCP Main Gallery; Picturing Painting at UP Vargas Museum; Sugarshack at Tapika at Katipunan; Swerve at Ratsky's Morato

July 18, Monday

Soul Seduction with Kate Torralba at Absinth; CouchLab DJs at Tiananmen Bar; I Don't Like Mondays! with DJ Ro at Gweilos Makati; Acoustic Soul with Release at Temple; Sitar Nights with Joey Valenciano at Bollywood; Route 70 at Fiesta San Miguel; Bernie Uy at Merk's; Zyncxation at Suburbia

July 19, Tuesday

Mishka Adams and the Blue Echoes at 70s Bistro; Ebony Grooves at V Bar; CouchLab DJs at Tiananmen Bar; Velvet Party with DJ One Nyte Stand & Audibles at Absinth; Bloomfields at Dish; Pinoy Blonde at local theaters; The Company at Merk's; Freeverse at Suburbia; Impulse at Ratsky's Morato; Sitar Nights with Joey Valenciano at Bollywood; Music Motion at Dungeon Bar, Camelot Hotel

July 20, Wednesday

Faces Nights with Boyet Almazan at Mezze, Greenbelt 2; Paolo Santos at 70s Bistro; Sugar Wednesdays at V Bar; Bellini Night at Embassy Cuisine; Come As You Are: 90s Music at Absinth; Superklasse at Embassy; Retro Night with DJ Bobby Nolasco at Prince of Jaipur; Way Back Wednesdays at Bed; Wednesday Jazz at Merk's; Twisted Pair at Suburbia; Divo & Freeverse at Ratsky's; Passage at Bagaberde; Music Motion at Nicotina Garden Pavillon

July 21, Thursday

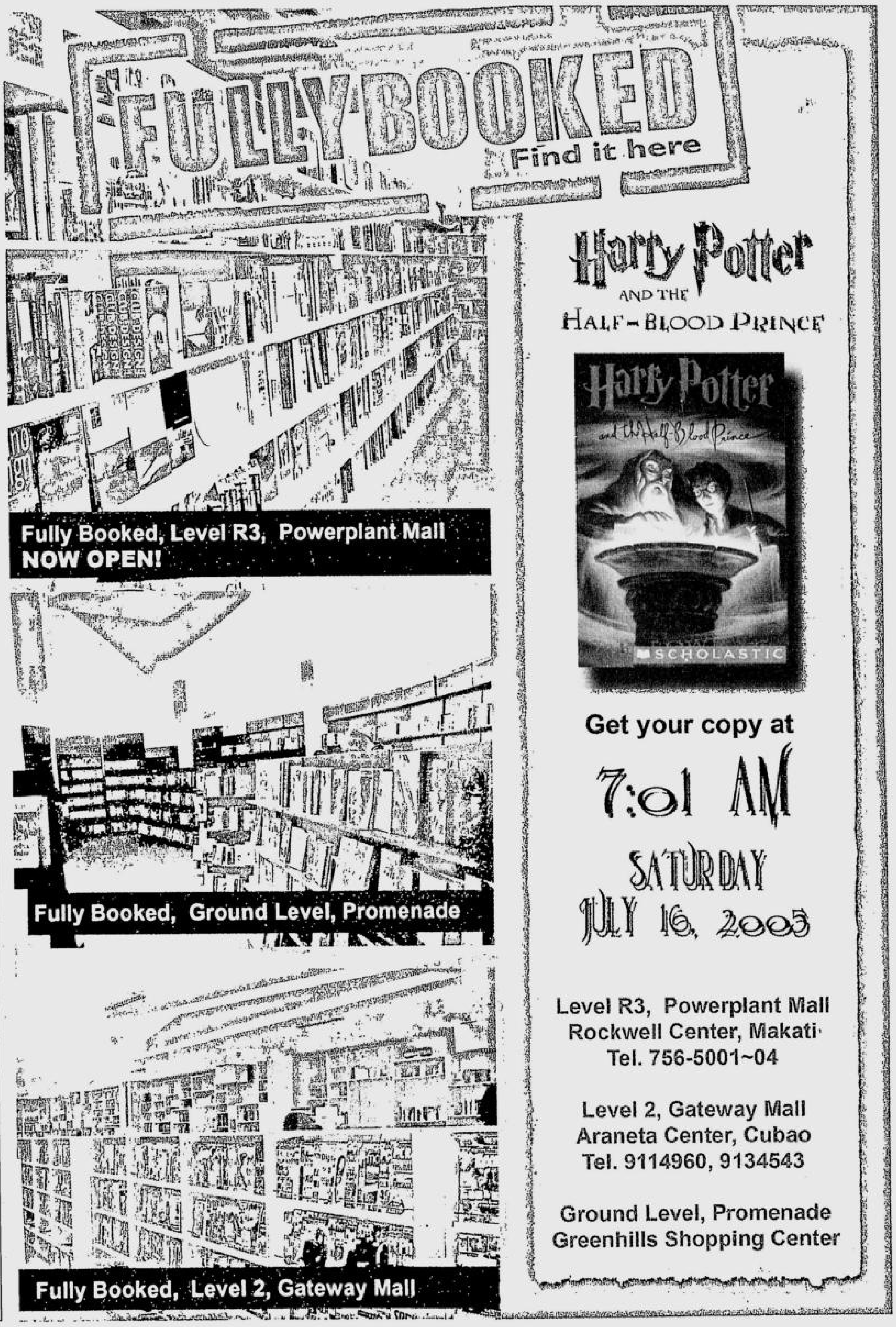
RIDDM with DJ Patch at Absinth; Ven at V Bar; CouchLab DJs at Tiananmen Bar; Balooze at 70s Bistro; SPIT at Mag:net Katipunan; Chocolate Milk at Government; Cocoy Puyat & Travis Monsod at Bed; Acoustic Nights at Bollywood; Replay at Dish; Acoustic Jive at Merk's; Acoustic Night at Bollywood; Jimmy Bondoc at Bagaberde; Mocha & Spin Art at Ratsky's; Twisted Pair at Suburbia; Music Motion at Tap Room, Manila Hotel

July 22, Friday

HouSessions with Manolet Dario at Mezze, Greenbelt 2; Decadance with Boyet Almazan at Jill's; BBC's Future Lounge at Halo; Musik & CouchLab DJs at Embassy; Guarana at Wasabi; 80s Music with Erick Maniquis at Absinth; Soul Fridays at V Bar; Jive Fridays at Temple; Friday Night Flava at Dish; Cocoy Puyat at Bed; Fierce Fridays at Government; The Jerks at 70s Bistro; DJ ScratchMark at Prince of Jaipur; Route 70 at Merk's; Passage at Fiesta San Miguel; Anna Fegi at Bagaberde; Jimmy Bondoc at Suburbia; U Turn at Tapika; Music Motion at Dungeon Bar, Camelot Hotel

CAPTURED by the lens of Jay Yao

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more information and a complete listing of events, text 24/7 through your mobile phone and send to 2949 for Globe and 209 for Smart. Log on to www.mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 Nocturnal Navigator at bars and restaurants around the city. Submit your schedules before Wednesday to e-mail address events@mag24-7.com and mag24_7@yahoo.com or fax number 892-0689.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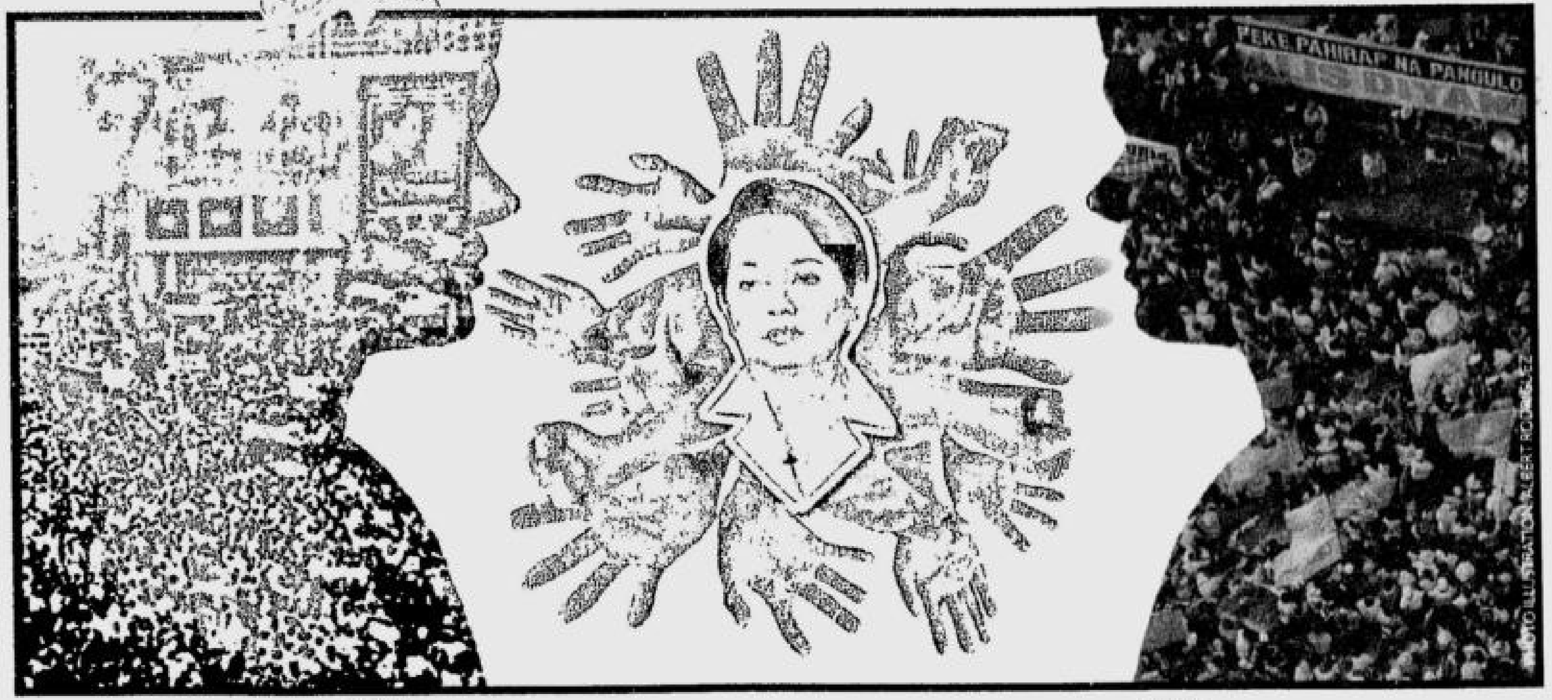

Do you care?

Tim Yap

PEOPLE seem to care less and less.

There seems to be a widening gap between activism and apathy. Of course, stating the obvious, these two words are polar opposites. Before, there would be a collective fight against injustice or anything that curtailed our freedom. I once tried to do that with my mom when she would not allow me to go out, but it didn't work. Then and now, people went to the streets to protest what they thought was wrong, knowing full well that if they say it loud enough, that somebody might just sit up, listen to them, and act up.

The night of the Ayala rallies against the Arroyo administration, there was a feeling of unrest from a lot of people. Text messages about the state of our country and of the President were aplenty, and there was talk about some major network celebration at Rockwell for someone who might be the next in line to the seat of power.

I looked out from my window at Gold's Gym, and all I saw was this lit billboard of an all-you-can-eat Chinese dimsum buffet. Looking outward to the Ayala area, I could still see the Rustan's window well-lit, with a steady flow of cars and customers rushing in for their fill of luxury. I got a call from Borgy Manotoc, who was on his way to the rally to join his mom. "My mom was a child of the sixties, so whenever they felt something had to be done, they would rally to the streets and speak out," he shared. My initial response to this was, "So what's the color theme?" Okay, call me a clueless political nincompoop but I know how color actually stands for something. What if I showed up in canary yellow while the rest of them wore blood red? (Then again, I've never been afraid to be different.)

The last time I joined the rallies was during Edsa Dos, where I celebrated my birthday. It actually felt good deep down to mark my turning a year older by being with people who were there because they wanted something to change for the better. Nope, there were no celebrities (save for the ones who went to speak up to the crowds, like Rosanna Roces and Bong Revilla et al) and no free booze, but there was instant camaraderie between everyone who stood up because they believed in their cause. Prior to that, I also joined the Ayala rallies, with camera on hand to document my "activist years."

Not to be one track-minded, those rallies felt like parties, since we live in a small town where everybody sort of knows everybody—so the setting was like a political "Desperate Housewives," with the Van De Camps handing out sandwiches, the Gabriel Solises showing everyone that they have a heart for charity and the future of the country, and so on. A lot of the politicians did their usual politicking, with the exception of now Sen. Dick Gordon, whose speech was so emotionally charged I had to stop myself from shedding a tear.

Going beyond ice breakers

The night of the Ayala rallies of last week, I did my usual round of nocturnal activity, hopping over to Embassy where a good cross section of people actually congregate and discuss their life issues over a few drinks. Che Singson arranged a birthday dinner for husband Gov. Chavit Singson and friends on the ground floor, while Robina Gokongwei-Pe was having a joint birthday dinner with her schoolmates on the second level of the Cuisine.

Elsewhere, the conversation went like this. "Don't pass Edsa, there are road blocks." "Traffic in Ayala was so bad today that I couldn't go to Greenbelt!" "Have you seen the new Peque Gallaga film Pinoy Blonde?" "How about Fantastic Four?" "Who's gonna replace GMA?" These were just some of the icebreakers I overheard that night. But it didn't go beyond that.

They failed to discuss their opinions on how they felt about the matter, their moral stand, if they were pro or against the President on this "Gloriagate" situation. It all boiled down to how it affected them. Me, me and me. That's how everybody seems to operate these days. I remember during the last elections when I asked a famous and respected businesswoman on who she was going to support for the elections. "I don't know—I just want to spot the right curve on who is more likely to win, because that's who we'll support—that's how businesses operate."

I just kept quiet, pretending what she had said was completely normal (that "I-agree-everyone-does-it!" look) and blase for me, but for someone who is still idealistic and hopeful (yes, I'm still young like that) in terms of this country's future, it actually came as a shock.

Student activism is alive

When I ask my "windows to the student worlds," Super!'s Pepe Diokno and James Gabrillo, they tell me that a lot of students have been going to the rallies.

They even collated some of the materials—some done with wit, and some pretty lame. Student activism isn't dead, but young people aren't as united. The "A list" doesn't stand for activist, but for apathetic.

We are too busy with our own lives that to even stop and think about how we feel about our country and its leaders leaves us a feeling of resignation. We care more about acquiring the latest gadgets or getting load for our text messages. We often look at it from our own framework, that we forget the big picture.

Big picture, more than whodunit and what not means our country's progress—meaning our OWN future. For Gloria, even if it hasn't been proven, my heart bleeds for her and the succeeding generations of her family.

I totally admire her strength and willpower—I am pro-GMA, but if she doesn't come clean out of this, she'll be known by the now and the next as the President who cheated, and got caught doing it, much like Erap was the one who was ousted because of stealing. I would never wish anyone ill, and I am not here to pass judgment. All I want is for things to be better—whether it takes the form of our current leader, or somebody else, as long as that person will try her or his best to uplift the state of our country—that is what I care about. And I'm willing to fight for it—our generation deserves nothing less.

I just hope that the powers that be have our best interests in their mind. Or else we might just end up like how a lot of people are right now—they don't care anymore.

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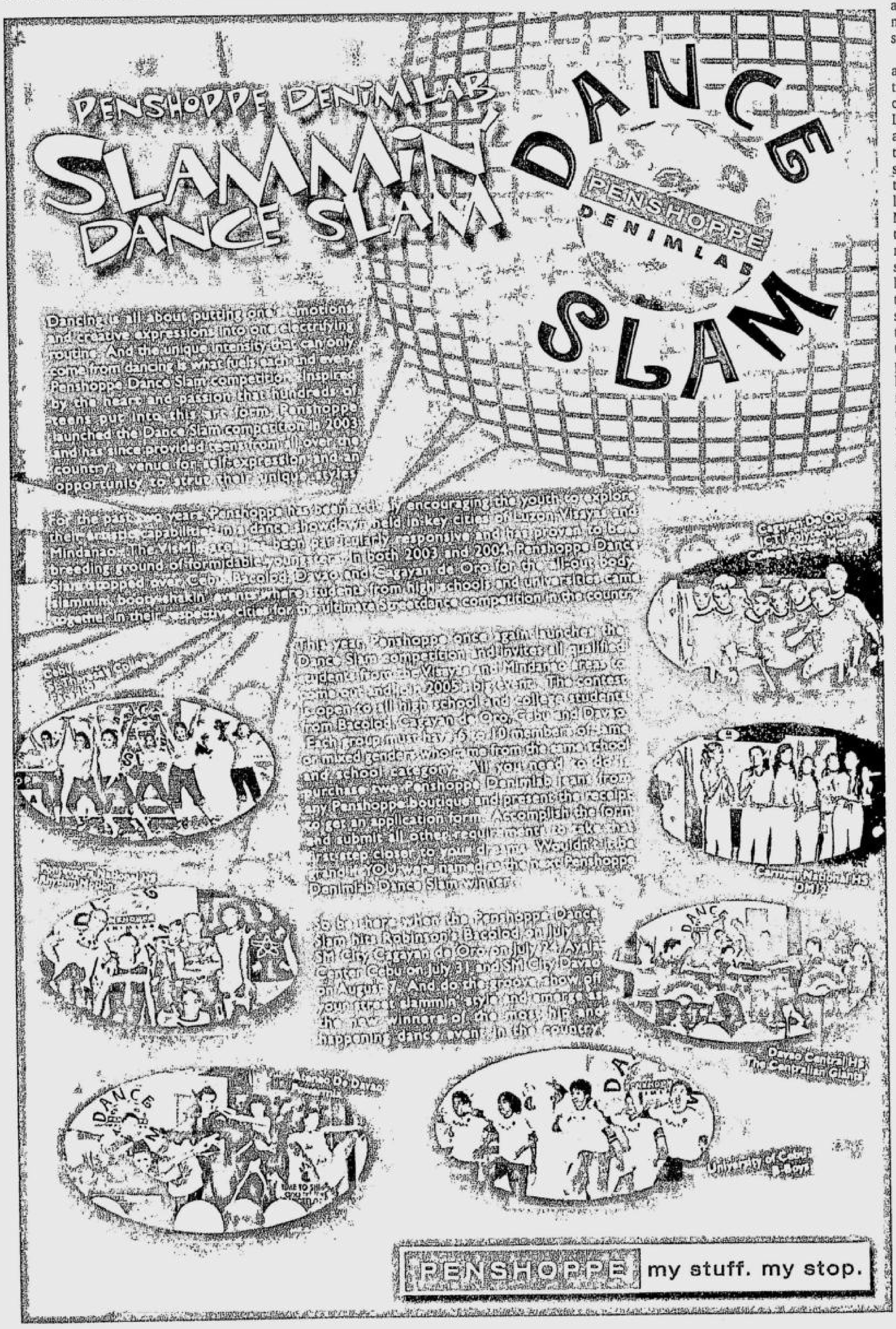

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Dancing is all about putting one's emotions and creative expressions into one electrifying routine. And the unique intensity that can only come from dancing is what fuels each and every Penshoppe Dance Slam competition. Inspired by the heart and passion that hundreds of teens put into this art form, Penshoppe launched the Dance Slam competition in 2003 and has since provided teens from all over the country a venue for self-expression and an opportunity to strut their unique styles.

For the past two years, Penshoppe has been actively encouraging the youth to explore their artistic capabilities in a dance showdown held in key cities of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. The VisMin area has been particularly responsive and has proven to be a breeding ground of formidable youngsters. In both 2003 and 2004, Penshoppe Dance Slam stopped over Cebu, Bacolod, Davao and Cagayan de Oro for the all-out body slammin, booty-shakin' events where students from high schools and universities came together in their respective cities for the ultimate streetdance competition in the country.

This year, Penshoppe once again launches the Dance Slam competition and invites all qualified students from the Visayas and Mindanao areas to come out and join 2005's big event. The contest is open to all high school and college students from Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu and Davao. Each group must have 6 to 10 members of same or mixed genders who come from the same school and school category. All you need to do is purchase two Penshoppe Denimlab jeans from any Penshoppe boutique and present the receipt to get an application form. Accomplish the form and submit all other requirements to take that first step closer to your dreams. Wouldn't it be grand if YOU were named as the next Penshoppe Denimlab Dance Slam winner.

So be there when the Penshoppe Dance Slam hits Robinson's Bacolod on July 17, SM City Cagayan de Oro on July 24, Ayala Center Cebu on July 31 and SM City Davao on August 7. And do the groove, show off your street slammin' style and emerge as the new winners of the most hip and happening dance event in the country.

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Meet your quarter-life superheroes

(CLOCKWISE from left) Mariel Rodriguez, Drew Arellano, Bianca Gonzales and Chase Tinio

Here are four fantastic faces of the future, achievers in their fields who are determined to make a difference by highlighting the positive

Introduction by Tim Yap
Interviews by Maricar Lim

LOOK out, world. Here they come. Are Bianca Gonzales, Chase Tinio, Drew Arellano and Mariel Rodriguez, the Fab Four, as they are now collectively known, the start of a cultural shift for this generation? Of late, the glitz biz has been filled with less than exemplary models that young people can actually look up to. With notoriety being the new celebrity, these four souls stand out in a crowd of push and pull—because they choose to convey positive values, a rare feat in today's "spotlight on me!" era.

What makes them Super! humans? Not X ray vision or bullet proof chests, but the ability to wake people up in the mornings and make them care, the ability to make their viewers laugh, think, take up sports, look at challenges in the eye and say, "I can do it."

Bianca is the fresh face of morning television. On weekends, she plays debate captain for youth forums that discuss everything from teenage pregnancy to political concerns. Chase is a champion tennis player and Fila endorser. Drew is the undisputed crush *ng bayan*, and until recently, was the face of funny news in this town. Mariel juggles between playing host to the number one reality show in the nation and VJ-ing for MTV, '*barok*' style, to reach a wider audience, a stroke of genius, and something she does with effortless ease.

In this Super! exclusive, they wear spandex, bend over backwards, and play with fire. Outside the shoot, they lead the lives of four individuals, striving to make a difference.

Reactivate the young. Watch these four fly.

Bianca Gonzalez is chipper and animated for Super's sunset pictorial. This is surprising, considering she got up at 3 a.m. to host the weekday "Magandang Umaga, Pilipinas." This 22-year-old, Communications graduate from Ateneo de Manila is booked solid, juggling ABS-CBN's "Magandang Umaga, Pilipinas" on weekdays, "Yspeak" on Studio 23 on Sundays, hosting corporate events and modelling. "I'm on cloud 9. Everything in my life is going well," she starts. "My mom is so proud. She keeps clear books of every thing I'm in." She describes how shocked she still is. Even after the Globe, Pantene, Coke, Kotex ads and billboards, hosting Star Dance, "Magandang Umaga" and "Yspeak," she still gets star struck and tongue-tied. When she met Ai Ai delas Alas for example, she gushed "I'm such a fan" repeatedly. When she met Sen. Pia Cayetano all she could say was "I voted for you" over and over.

Snatching a conversation in between makeup and posing, Bianca is immediately open and articulate. And never more so than when she passionately relates her aversion to whitening products. She even went so far as to write an article for Meg magazine about it. "I have nothing against people who are white or meztiza. But young darker-skinned girls should not feel bad about their skin tone. Dark is beautiful. Morena girls rock!" In grade school, the other kids used to tease (She described herself as a nerd with braces), chiding her "Negrita, Negrita." She kept her chin up through those awkward years. But when she

MEET/ D3

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Bass

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Rustan's Makati

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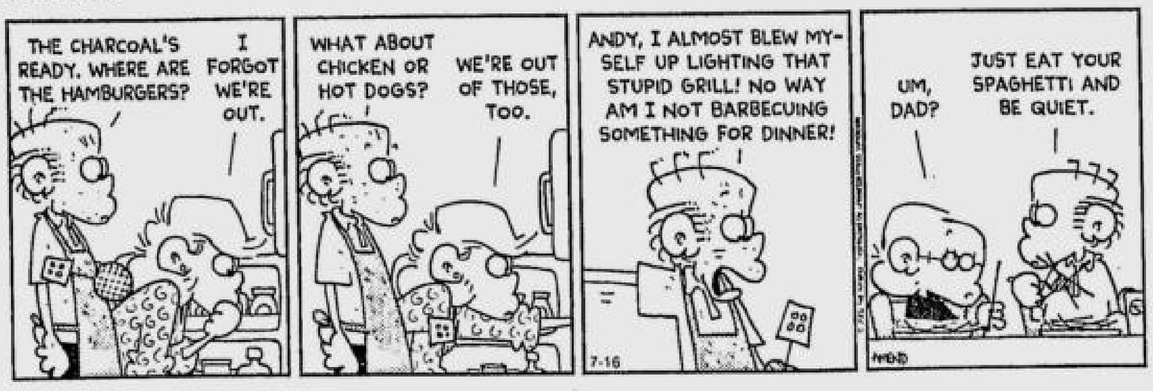
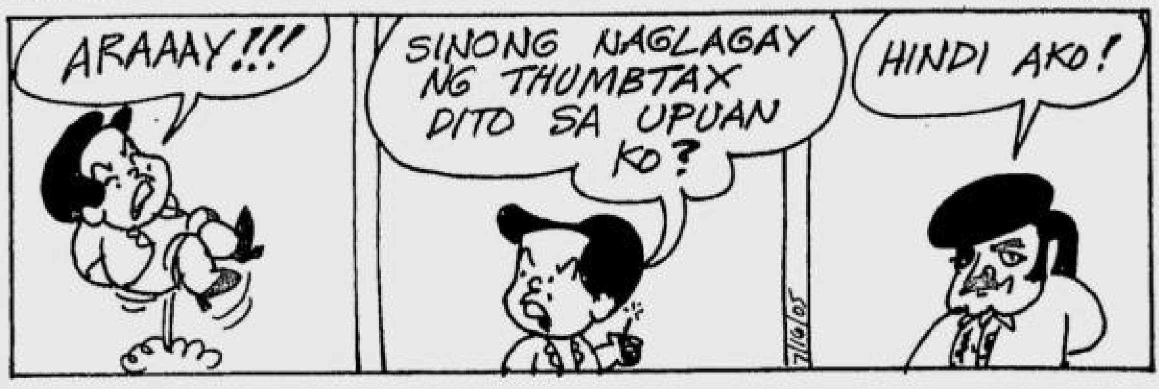
BY BILL AMEND


THE CHARCOAL'S READY. WHERE ARE THE HAMBURGERS?
I FORGOT WE'RE OUT.
WHAT ABOUT CHICKEN OR HOT DOGS?
WE'RE OUT OF THOSE, TOO.
ANDY, I ALMOST BLEW MYSELF UP LIGHTING THAT STUPID GRILL! NO WAY AM I NOT BARBECUING SOMETHING FOR DINNER!
7-16
UM, DAD?
JUST EAT YOUR SPAGHETTI AND BE QUIET.
AMEND

A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA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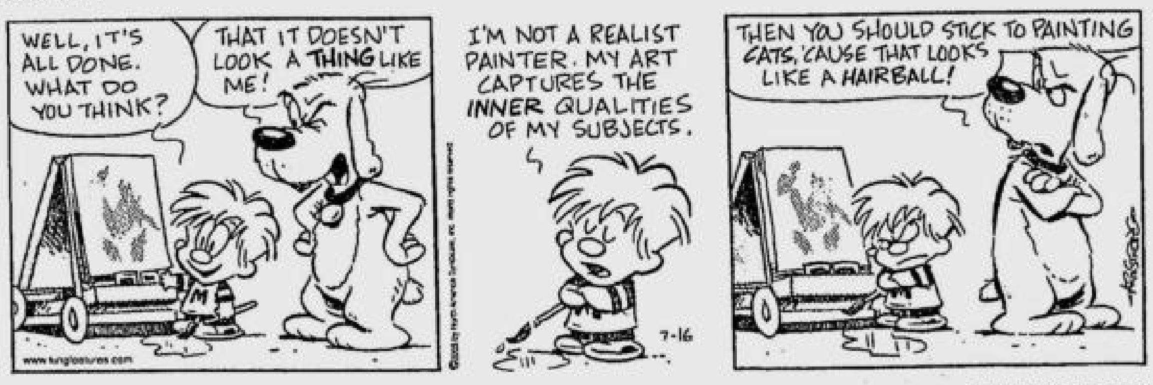
SINONG NAGLAGAY NG THUMBTAX DITO SA UPUAN KO?
7/16/05
HINDI AKO!

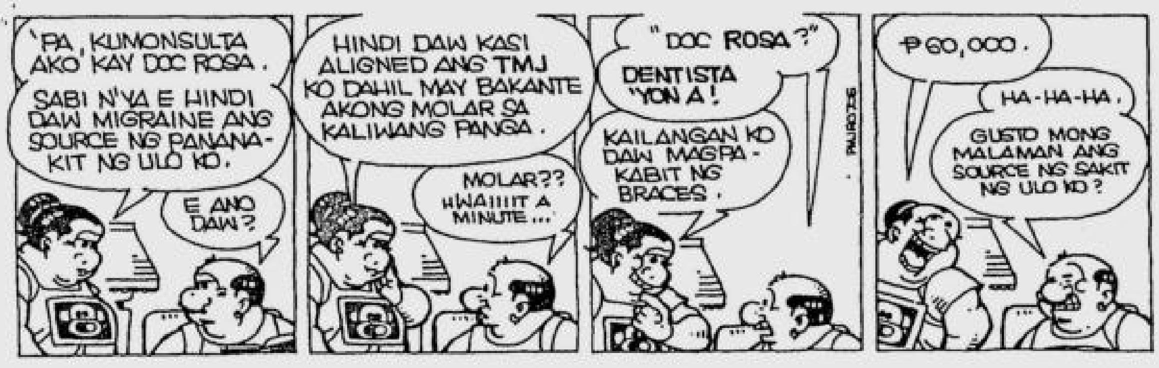
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


WELL, IT'S ALL DONE. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
THAT IT DOESN'T LOOK A THING LIKE ME!
www.kingfeatures.com
I'M NOT A REALIST PAINTER. MY ART CAPTURES THE INNER QUALITIES OF MY SUBJECTS.
7-16
THEN YOU SHOULD STICK TO PAINTING CATS, 'CAUSE THAT LOOKS LIKE A HAIRBALL!
ARMSTRONG

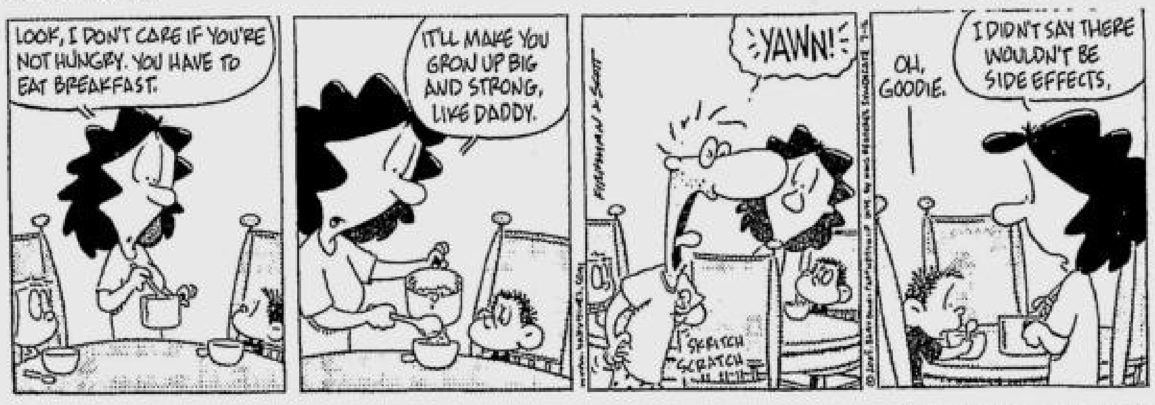
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


'PA, KUMONSULTA AKO' KAY DOC ROSA.
SABI N'YA E HINDI DAW MIGRAINE ANG SOURCE NG PANANAKIT NG ULO KO.
E ANO DAW?
HINDI DAW KASI ALIGNED ANG TMJ KO DAHIL MAY BAKANTE AKONG MOLAR SA KALIWANG PANGA.
MOLAR?? WAIIIIT A MINUTE...
"DOC ROSA?"
DENTISTA 'YON A!
KAILANGAN KO DAW MAGPA-KABIT NG BRACES.
PAJR0716
₱60,000.
HA-HA-HA.
GUSTO MONG MALAMAN ANG SOURCE NG SAKIT NG ULO KO?

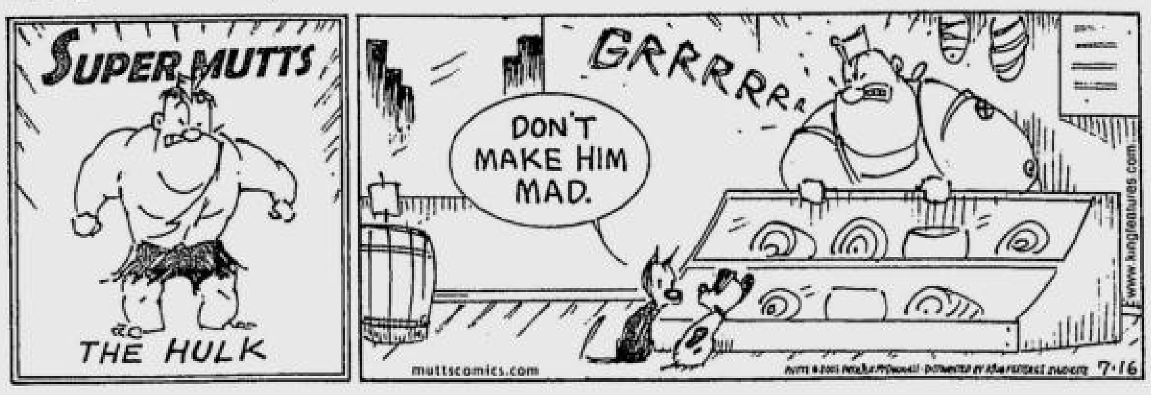
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


LOOK, I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE NOT HUNGRY. YOU HAVE TO EAT BREAKFAST.
IT'LL MAKE YOU GROW UP BIG AND STRONG, LIKE DADDY.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT
YAWN!
SKRITCH SCRATCH
OH, GOODIE.
I DIDN'T SAY THERE WOULDN'T BE SIDE EFFECTS.

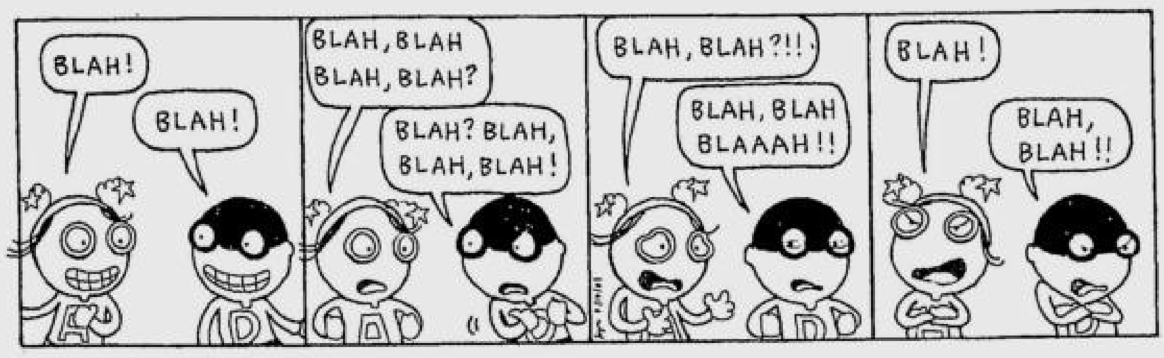
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SUPER MUTTS
THE HULK
GRRRRR
DON'T MAKE HIM MAD.
muttscomics.com
www.kingfeatures.com
7·16

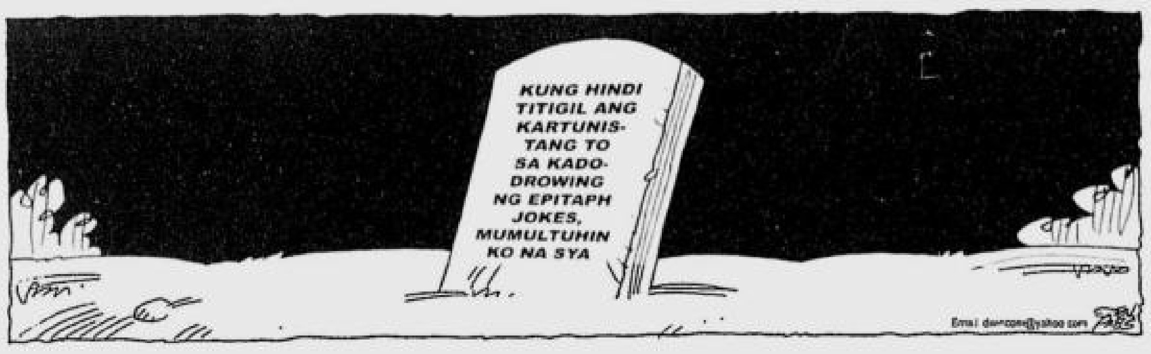
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


BLAH!
BLAH!
BLAH, BLAH BLAH, BLAH?
BLAH? BLAH, BLAH, BLAH!
BLAH, BLAH?!!
BLAH, BLAH BLAAAH!!
BLAH!
BLAH, BLAH!!

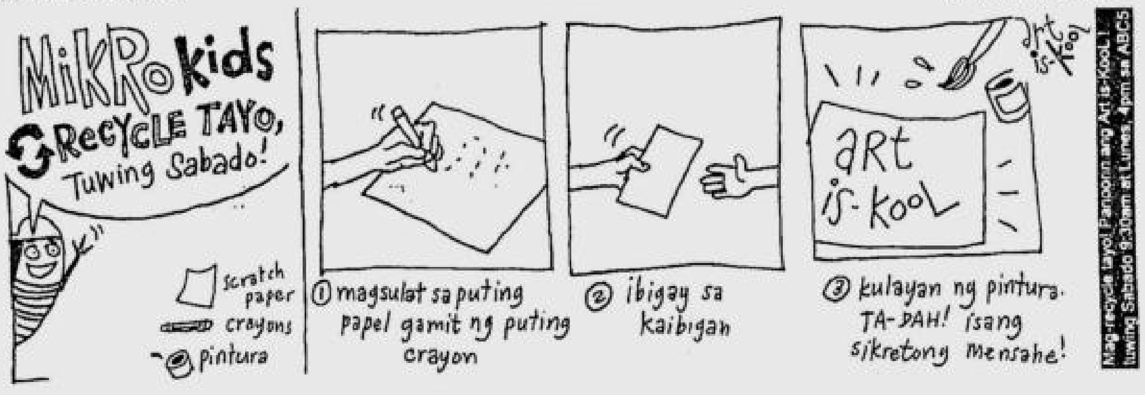
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


KUNG HINDI TITIGIL ANG KARTUNISTANG TO SA KADODROWING NG EPITAPH JOKES, MUMULTUHIN KO NA SYA

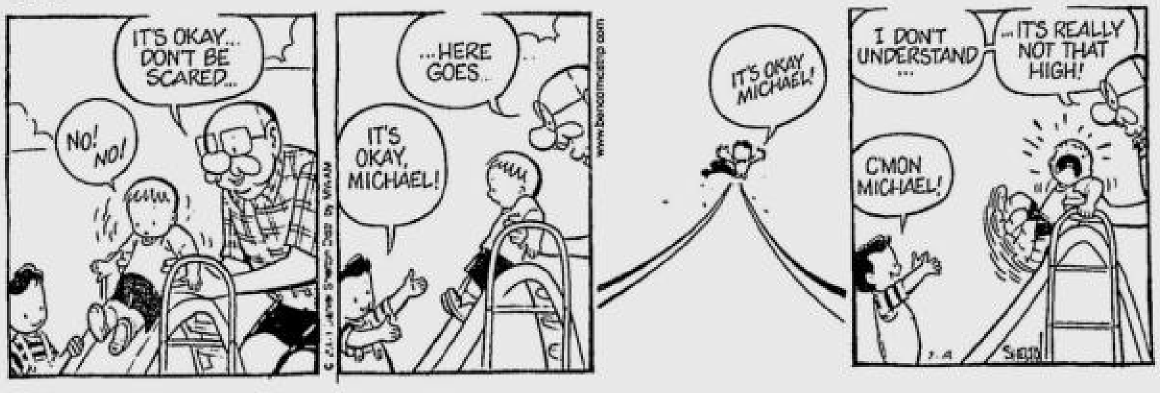
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRo kids
RECYCLE TAYO, Tuwing Sabado!
scratch paper
crayons
pintura
① magsulat sa puting papel gamit ng puting crayon
② ibigay sa kaibigan
art is-kool
③ kulayan ng pintura. TA-DAH! isang sikretong mensahe!
art is-kool
Mag-recycle tayo! Panoorin ang Art is-Kool! tuwing Sabado 9:30am at Lunes 4pm sa ABC5

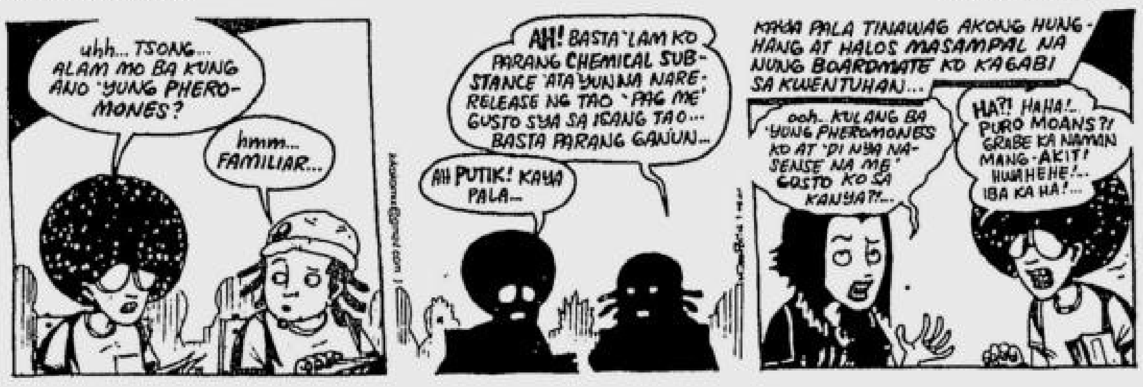
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


IT'S OKAY... DON'T BE SCARED...
NO! NO!
...HERE GOES...
IT'S OKAY, MICHAEL!
www.bencomicstrip.com
IT'S OKAY MICHAEL!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
...IT'S REALLY NOT THAT HIGH!
C'MON MICHAEL!
SHELTON

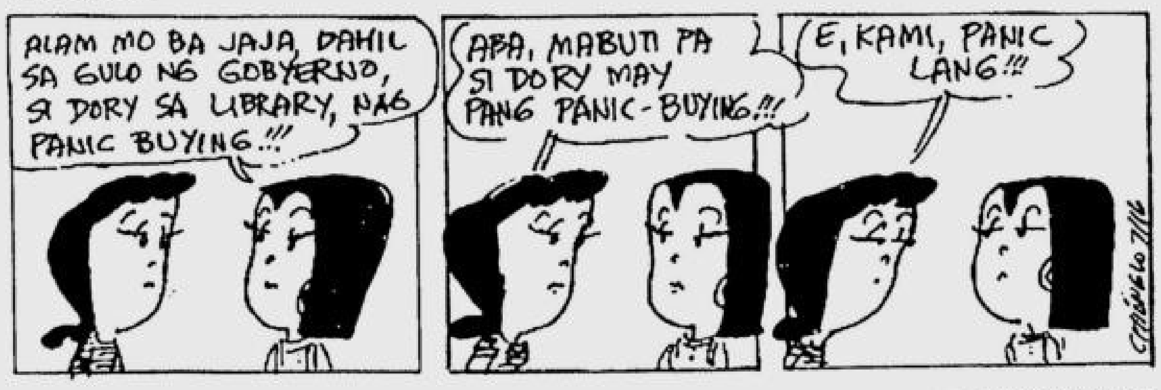
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


uhh... TSONG... ALAM MO BA KUNG ANO 'YUNG PHEROMONES?
hmm... FAMILIAR...
AH! BASTA 'LAM KO PARANG CHEMICAL SUBSTANCE 'ATA 'YUN NA NARE-RELEASE NG TAO 'PAG ME' GUSTO SYA SA ISANG TAO... BASTA PARANG GANUN...
AH PUTIK! KAYA PALA...
KAYA PALA TINAWAG AKONG HUNGHANG AT HALOS MASAMPAL NA NUNG BOARDMATE KO KAGABI SA KWENTUHAN...
ooh.. KULANG BA 'YUNG PHEROMONES KO AT 'DI NYA NA-SENSE NA ME' GUSTO KO SA KANYA?!...
HA?! HAHA!.. PURO MOANS?! GRABE KA NAMAN MANG-AKIT! HUAHEHE!.. IBA KA HA!...

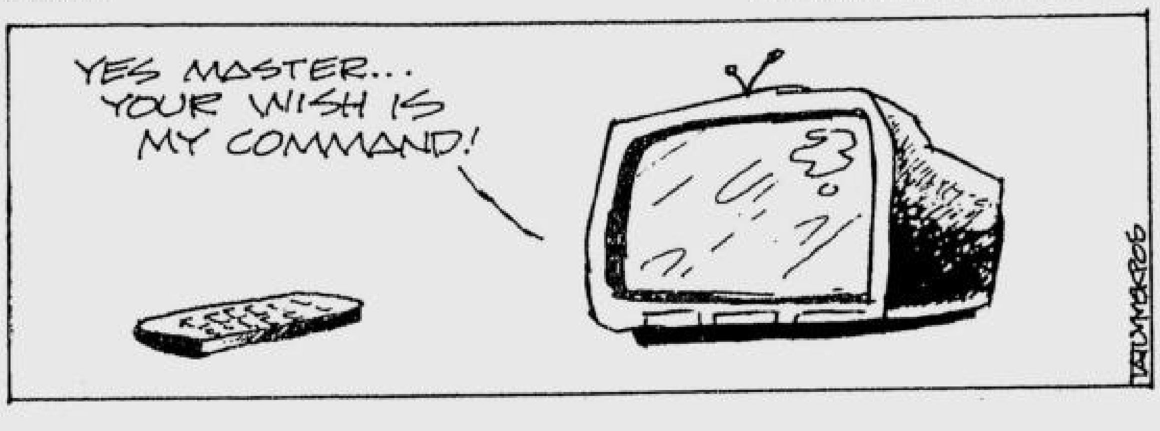
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ALAM MO BA JAJA, DAHIL SA GULO NG GOBYERNO, SI DORY SA LIBRARY, NAG PANIC BUYING!!!
ABA, MABUTI PA SI DORY MAY PANG PANIC-BUYING!!!
E, KAMI, PANIC LANG!!!
CHIONGLO 7/16

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


YES MASTER... YOUR WISH IS MY COMMAND!
TATUM MORROS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a public persona and a private self. Your private self is surprisingly shy and withdrawn. Because of this, many of you develop a comedic mask. Your sensitivity to the feelings of others gives you a keen understanding of people. An important choice awaits you this year. Choose wisely.
Birthdate of: Will Ferrell, actor; Corey Feldman, actor; Stewart Copeland, musician/composer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a passionate day. Your passion might take many different courses. Certainly, romance is one of them.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You're insistent about something at home today. Perhaps you want to entertain in a certain style. Nothing and no one will dissuade you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): They say a good product sells itself. That seems to be the theme today.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Normally, you're quite sensible with money. Today, you desperately want to buy something; you simply have to have it!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You feel quite intensely about anything that you do today. (No matter what it is.) People sense this about you and are magnetized to your energy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You might not be able to identify a rousing energy that seems to move you today. You don't know where it comes from. Actually, it's an impulse from your past. You can act on it or not—as you choose.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): A friend might try to talk you into doing something today. If you want to comply, fine. However, if you don't agree, you'll be able to resist all persuasion. (You're strong, too!)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You might insist on getting your way with bosses, authority figures or even parents. Sometimes this works; sometimes it doesn't. Today, you can get away with anything!

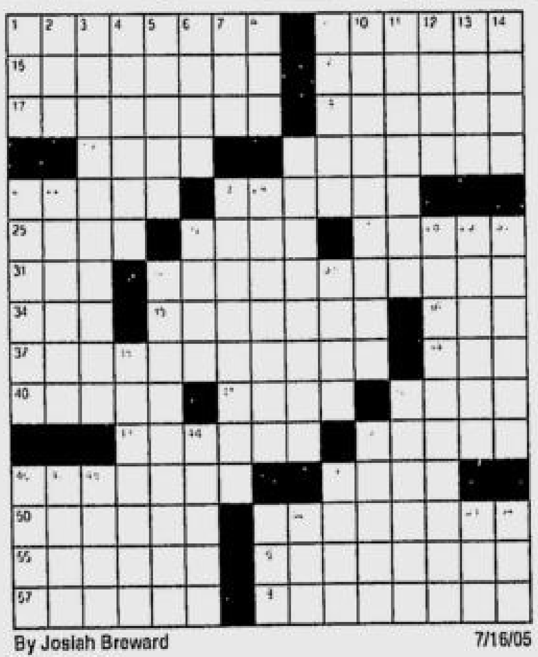
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You desperately want to blow town. You want adventure. You want something exciting to happen. At least, go someplace different that you've never been to before.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You feel very passionate today in a private sense, and you also feel passionate about defending your values. You'll be very careful about what you choose to share or not.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Friendship is extremely important to you. Today you are quite excited about a particular issue with a partner or a close friend. Don't lose your focus.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You have wonderful ideas about how to make improvements at work. You see better ways of doing things.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Josiah Breward
Scranton, PA
7/16/05

ACROSS
1 Raised
9 Mistreats
15 Mocking
16 Rejection
17 Coasts
18 Ultimatum phrase
19 Stick it out
20 Made
21 Fresh from the laundry
23 Least vivid
25 Galley tools
26 Funnyman Carvey
27 Lavish meal
31 Yuck!
32 Gossip
34 "William Wilson" author
35 More lacking in substance
36 Bearded African grazer
37 Hark!
39 Outermost edge
40 Ceased
41 Rip apart
42 Lugosi or Bartok
43 Passover repasts
45 Ascended
46 "Star Trek" star
49 Forfeiture
50 City SE of Warsaw
51 Make a photosensitive coating
55 Funt and Ginsberg
56 New York hospital
57 Allegiance avowal
58 Makes empty threats

DOWN
1 McMahon and Ames
2 Civil War general
3 David Lynch film
4 Broad panoramas
5 Laotian or Mongolian
6 In good order
7 "The Three Faces of _"
8 _ Moines
9 Be nuts about
10 "Driving Miss Daisy" director
11 Like leftovers
12 Sediment
13 Let up
14 Zero-wheeled vehicle
20 Medieval trumpets
21 Pair
22 Coral-reef enclosure
23 One who dotes
24 One more
26 Voiceless
28 Combative
29 Dotty
30 "Breakfast at Tiffany's" writer Capote
32 Blushing
33 Canasta combination
38 Snuggled
42 Jacqueline of "Bullitt"
44 Jam-packed
45 Turns over and over
46 Smacking blow
47 Body of a ship
48 Having the skill
49 Remarkable thing
51 Tidal flow
52 Brooks or Torme
53 Mammalian coat
54 Affirmative response

Friday's Puzzle Solved

L	O	P	E	D	■	C	A	H	N	■	T	W	A	S
S	H	A	D	Y	■	O	L	E	O	■	W	A	V	E
T	O	N	A	L	■	H	O	R	N	■	I	D	E	E
■	■	A	M	A	T	E	U	R	B	O	X	E	R	S
A	C	T	■	N	O	R	■	■	A	R	T	I	S	T
H	E	E	L	■	T	E	R	E	S	A	■	U	F	O
A	D	L	A	I	■	■	O	M	I	T	S	■	■	■
B	E	A	M	M	E	U	P	S	C	O	T	T	I	E
■	■	■	S	P	A	R	E	■	■	R	E	R	A	N
P	I	E	■	O	S	I	R	I	S	■	W	I	N	D
U	N	E	A	S	Y	■	■	N	A	B	■	E	S	S
T	H	R	E	E	P	O	I	N	T	E	R	S	■	■
S	A	S	S	■	A	N	N	A	■	R	E	O	I	L
O	L	I	O	■	C	E	N	T	■	E	D	U	C	E
N	E	A	P	■	E	L	S	E	■	T	O	T	E	D

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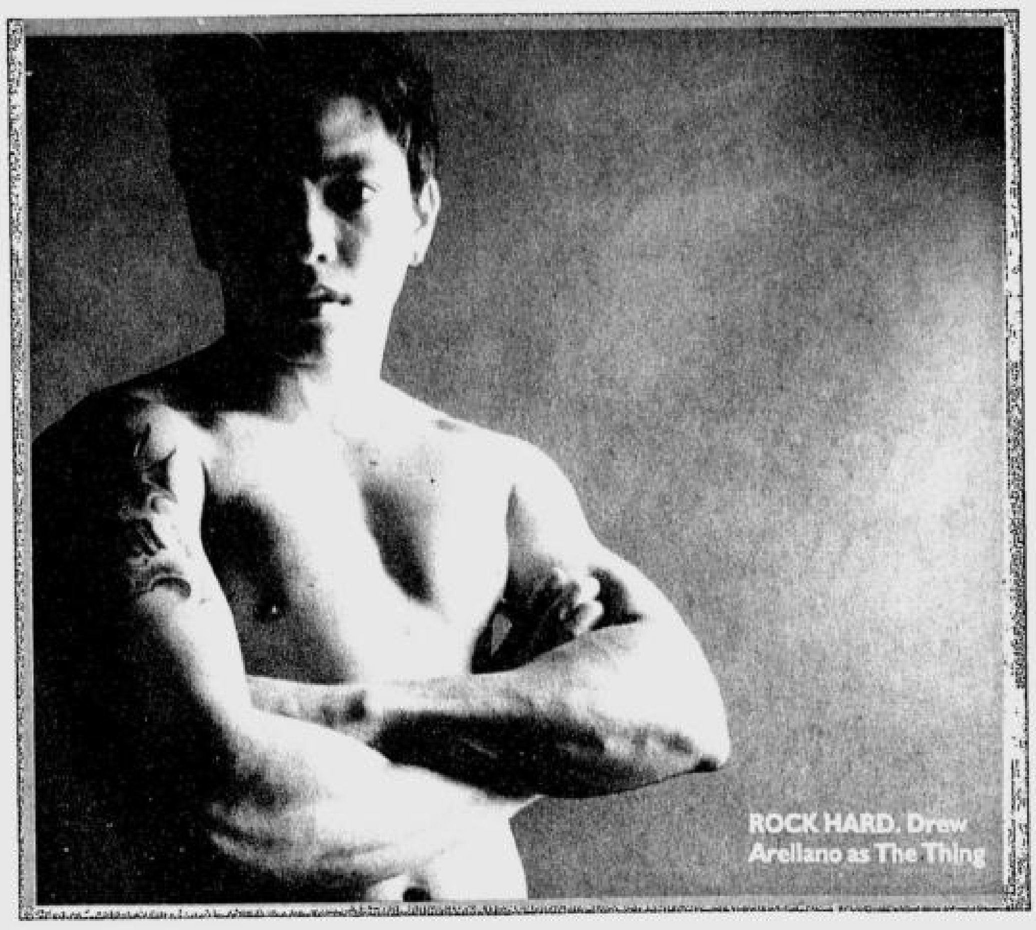
7/16/05



ROCK HARD. Drew Arellano as The Thing

Meet your quarter-life superheroes

From page D1

got to college people started complimenting her on the natural tan. A self-confessed techie, she blogs, with young "morenas" more than proud to be their poster girl and a boost to their self-esteem. "Type *ko talaga Pinoy, Moreno*" she attests, nodding her head repeatedly. With a touch of evil, I interrogate her about boyfriend and director Lino Cayetano's light skin and auburn hair and she completely, charmingly, cracks up at the irony. Still shaking her head, she walks away to strike her next pose.

Mariel Rodriguez jumps up beside me, like a tiny dynamo. She doesn't stop to catch a breath, narrating how she just bet against Chase Tinio on how long he was in college. Pretty gutsy considering Chase should know that little factoid better. She breaks out into the most throaty, cascading laugh I have heard since Andie MacDowell's campy turn in Hudson Hawk.

You know there's just no stopping this girl. From the day manager Jet Valle introduced her to the MTV people, she quickly decided to drop college at DLSU and was immediately whisked off to Singapore to train for "Rouge." She credits her unmarked self-confidence to the wonderful and supportive grandparents who raised her and her younger sister. "I'm really glad my grandparents raised us. My *lolo* is the best. I don't think anyone is kinder. My grandma is the most supportive person. They taught me to believe in myself regardless of other people." When criticized, Mariel just becomes more driven. Her father, living in the US, was completely against her becoming an actress. Her father was so protective that she needed to call him long distance to ask permission just to go malling with friends. Mariel has her own mind. She is determined to be an actress and sets her sights on a "teleserye" when she's ready. Whatever free time she has between "Ok Fine" with Aga Muhlach, MTV gigs and hosting, she watches movies and TV, studying her craft. Given to extremes, Mariel laughs incessantly but she also cries easily. Tears flowed while she watched "The Lion King" and the season-ender of the "OC." From her toothy laugh to deep frown, we can't wait to see Mariel become a real drama queen.

Drew Arellano was more business than show biz when casting directors took notice tapping him for consecutive Sunsilk and GSM Blue commercials. Back then he was an account manager with J. Romero and Associates. He also ran his own business with a friend as the local distributors of Cuetec billiard sticks at Toby's—a business that thrives until today even with Drew's full schedule. His day starts at 4 a.m. with GMA 7's "Unang Hirit" every weekday and hosting jobs. He re-

MEET/D4

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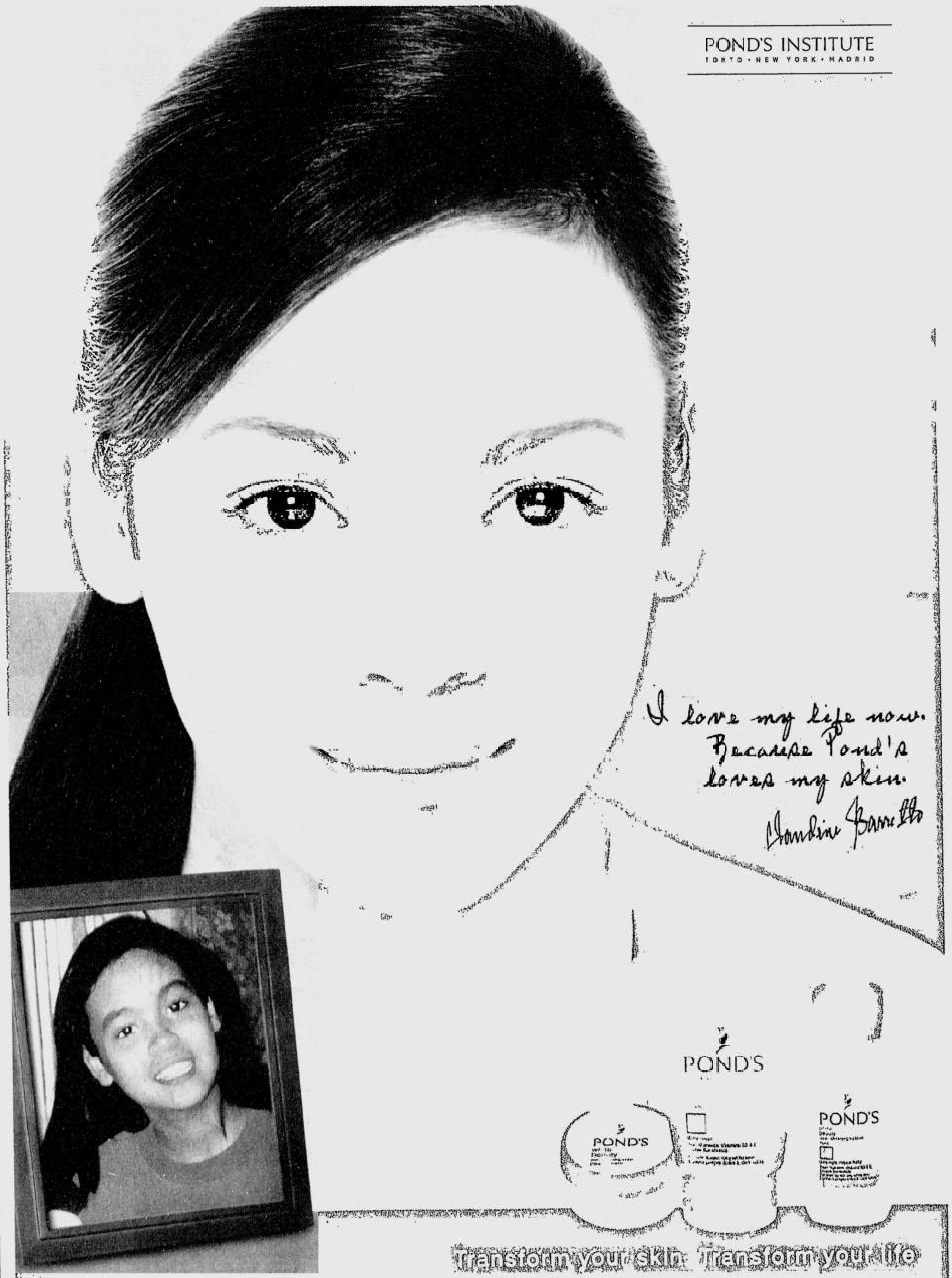

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Meet your quarter-life superheroes

ELASTIC PLASTIC. Chase Tinio as Mr. Fantastic

SEE-THROUGH. Mariel Rodriguez as the Invisible Girl

HOTTER THAN HOT. Bianca Gonzales as The Human Torch

From page D3

cently left "Wazzup Wazzup" on Studio 23 for a guaranteed show with rival GMA Network's new UHF Channel. While he really enjoyed hosting both shows, he prefers the unscripted freedom he has with "Unang Hirit."

"*Di ako talaga para doon*. Show business was never an option. But my dad told me to give it a shot and I did." (His dad is Boy Abunda's lawyer). Daddy did know best. And Drew has managed to enjoy the show biz world he was so wary of. He and real life girlfriend host Iya Villana even make the perfect "close-up" couple. Together with manager Boy Abunda, they have created a special niche for Drew as a light news reporter with "Unang Hirit" and journalistic parody through his persona in "Wazzup Wazzup." With a face much younger than his 25 years, he has a lot of time to grow into a serious broadcaster but his wildest dream would be his own local show patterned after Conan O'Brien's. Drew Arellano still thinks in business terms. A Conan-like show would be the perfect mix of comedy, hosting and interviewing that he enjoys so much. In Drew fashion, he exits, joking that he could never do the UP Oblation Run, flashing a huge tattoo of a cross and shadows with D-R-E-W stamped smack in the center.

Chase Tinio is a full-time Organizational Systems student at DLSU. An admitted goofball, he enjoyed the behind-the-scenes antics of the recently concluded MTV Ubreak. Once, you go past his easygoing and cool exterior, you find that Chase is a rather serious guy. He lives by telling people what they need to hear rather than what they want to hear. Once he told off a teacher for putting him down as a tennis jock (once ranked top 20). He 'did however start the critique with "With all due respect Maam." He says this earnestly and you know he doesn't have a shred of malice nor "meanness" but a non-negotiable need for honesty and as he says "keeping it real."

Today, fit and 6'1" tall, it's hard to picture the 165 lb, 5 foot plus, 13 year-old Chase that no one would play basketball with. "It was a sad reality. All the other kids saw in me a fat ass and an A-minus would make my parents furious." So Chase studied hard and worked hard to lose weight. When he was down, he would listen to Ritchie Sambora.

While he has worked as a television host, Chase Tinio is a musician. So, far he has written and composed 6 songs and hopes to complete enough material to produce a demo for a record label. With a sweet and steady voice reminiscent of Brian Adams, he sang me a few lines from his own "Made in Manila." Without a doubt, he will surely be that one day soon.

Just a small-time boy with big-time dreams
Following his conscience
In a world full of extremes....
Blinded by my mission.
There was just no turning back.
Like a runaway train,
life was streaming down the track.
They said I wouldn't make it
But I kept on hanging on
Every night I prayed to Jesus
And held my head up strong.

Sale!
Sale!

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July 16 (Sat), 10am - 12mn
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26TH STREET
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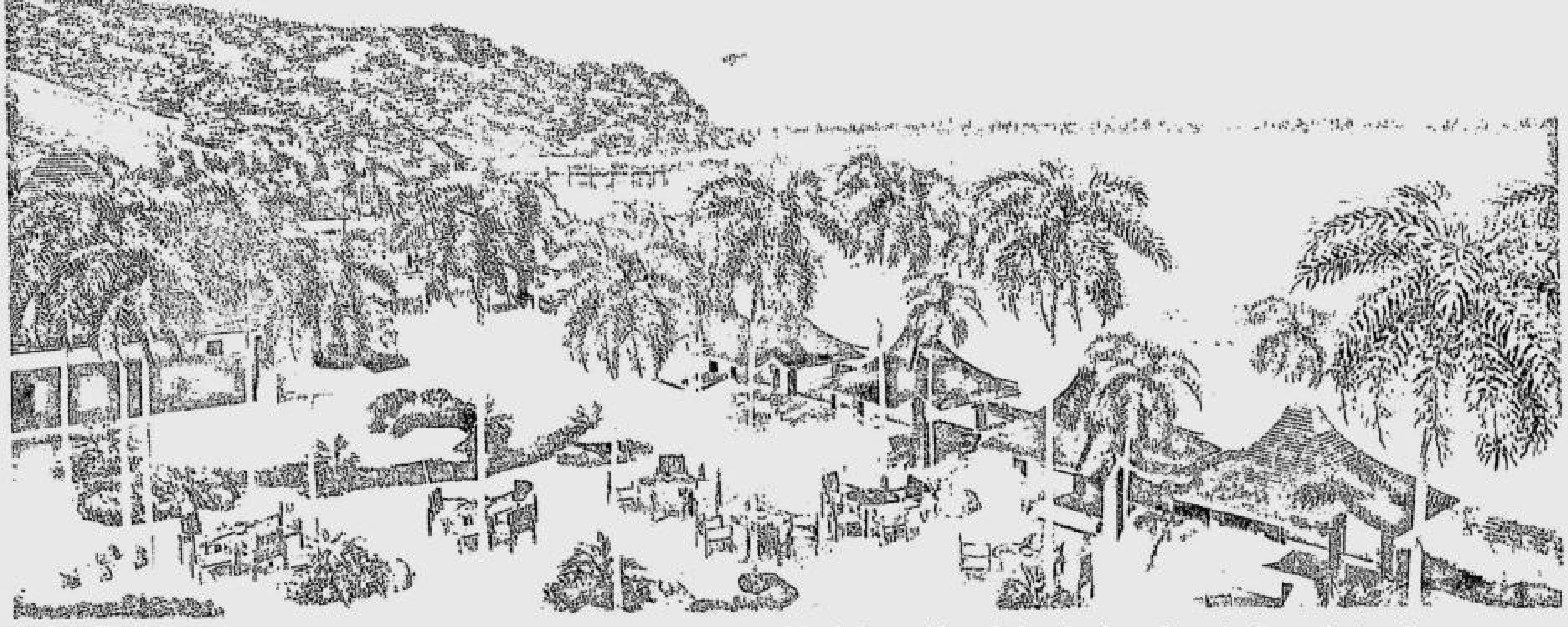
FROM SOUTH SUPER HIGHWAY

ANVAYA COVE
An AYALA Leisure Community

Shaping the Vision

[illegible] Anvaya [illegible]

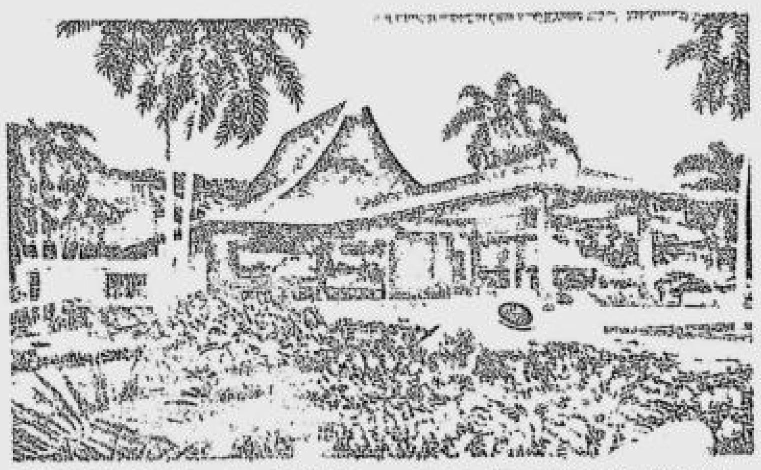
Anvaya Cov[illegible] Ayala Land Inc[illegible] 320-hectare residential leisure community a few minute[illegible] out of the bustling Subic Bay freeport, was developed with [illegible]areful consideration of the market and its needs. "Anvaya," which means 'family' in Sanskrit, is a true embodiment of the company's goal to capture the untapped mar[illegible] [illegible] Filipino families who wish to [illegible] tim[illegible] [illegible]ith their loved [illegible] [illegible]onsider vacation [illegible] [illegible]luable opportunities [illegible] another



OTHER amenities in the Anvaya Cove Beach & Nature Club include a Recreational Beach Area, with quaint beach cabanas for gatherings and relaxation.

Anvaya Cove is the debut project of Ayala Land's Leisure and Lifestyle Communities Group, a relatively new division formed within the real-estate company that is tasked to explore and develop the market for real estate geared towards recreational living, leisure, and secondary home or retirement purposes. With vice president Marivic Añonuevo at its helm, Ayala Land is confidently poised to conquer the leisure market not just in the Philippines but overseas as well.

It was with full management support that the Anvaya Cove team set out to define the broad strokes that would mold the project. Together with representatives from Sudeco — a privately owned corporation which is the joint development partner of ALI in Anvaya Cove — they went as far and wide as Hawaii, San Francisco, and Florida in the U.S. in order to get a better feel for the "modern tropical Asian" theme envisioned for the development. The project team, headed by Beng Abella, also visited the nearby seaside residential leisure communities and high end resorts of Phuket, Koh Samui and Hua Hin of Thailand.



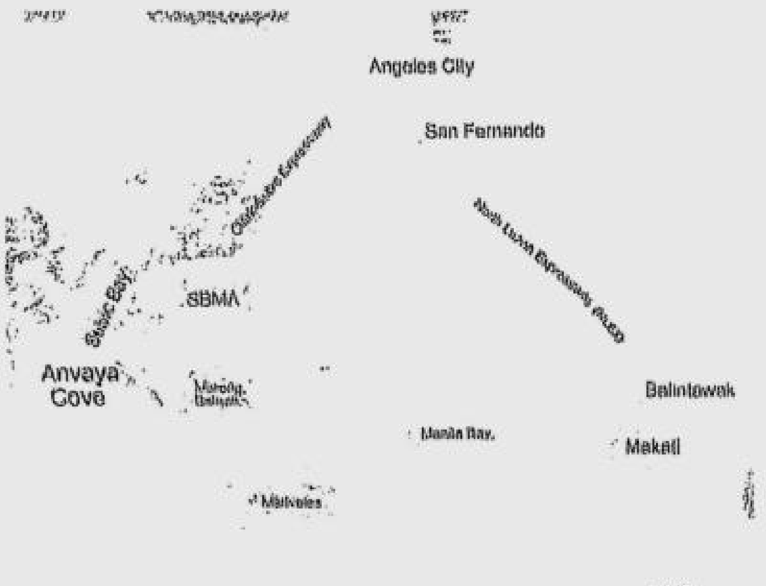
THE ANVAYA Cove Beach & Nature Club is the center of activity in the leisure community, exemplifying the Asian tropical architecture of the development.

The hard-working team spent what would have been an unhurried opportunity for a vacation absorbing and steadily documenting details that would make the difference in developing a premier leisure project. The fundamental eye-opener was the natural wealth of what their homeland could offer. "The Philippines is blessed with such natural beauty. If other countries especially in Asia can create these resorts with such high quality, why can't we do the same in the Philippines?" declared Añonuevo of the project's basic driving force.

"In our research and from our learnings abroad, we are finding that people are hungering more and more for the back-to-nature experience, away from it all. This is in line with our vision to enhance the natural environment of Anvaya Cove. In this development, we will be working with the lay of the land and will endeavor to retain ecologically valuable patches of green where birds and other wildlife thrive within and around the area," says Marly Laraya, project and business development manager.

It is easy for the team to dream big for Anvaya Cove. "We have seen in the Hualalai Hawaii experience how they have made something out of nothing - a first-class seaside resort development in what used to be lava wasteland," relates Manny Illana, project architecture and planning manager. Blessed with a 3.5-kilometer coastline and its own private cove, Anvaya has wonderful views and a variety of landscape characteristics such as tree-lined drives, rolling hills, mango and bamboo groves, and a natural creek. These make for an exciting range of amenities that will be made available through the unique offering of a complete water and land nature experience at the Beach and Nature Club, Recreational Lagoon, Water Sports Pavilion, and Nature Camp.

Of course, there is the importance of quality service and maintenance of property value over time-something that is not alien to the Ayala real-estate company, which has pioneered in properly maintaining its properties for the benefit of its homeowners and customers. "What struck me in our visit to Banyan Tree in Phuket was the unfailing one-minute-service. While that level of service may be a bit too high for the resort quality service we aim for at Anvaya Cove, it gives us a good benchmark of what can be achieved," says Darwin Salipsip, project construction manager.



Embracing the natural order of things

Anvaya Cove's design concept could be considered a true deference to the lay of the land, enhancing the natural beauty of its landscapes.

Andy Locsin, at the helm of his father's renowned, pioneering Filipino architectural firm L.V. Locsin & Partners, said that their group came up with a design concept that protects the natural character of the site and takes advantage of its spectacular beauty. "We want Anvaya Cove to look like it arose from the ground, so even the choice of materials and colors reflects a harmonious fit to the natural surroundings," he explained. "We tried to do a minimum of cut and build, and tried to respect the lay of the land, so it feels like the architecture is of the place. There was a very strong feeling not to overwhelm what is naturally there so colors and

SHAPING/ E2

First Ayala leisure project in the north seen to boost industry

THE BURGEONING leisure industry in the Philippines, estimated at P9 billion last year, is expected to grow even bigger this year with the entry of premier real-estate developer Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) in the market, with its first-ever leisure community in north of Metro Manila.

Dubbed Anvaya Cove, the new development brings ALI's trusted signature of quality and years of experience in real-estate development into the allied leisure industry, which is already teeming with players and on the rebound after a plunge during the Asian financial crisis in 1997.

"The market is very challenging indeed. Already, many developers have gone ahead to make their mark. But we at Ayala are confident that now is the time for a true veteran to raise the standard with a project that will truly be world-class," stated Marivic Añonuevo, vice president of ALI's leisure and lifestyle communities group.

Añonuevo's group is a new division within Ayala Land tasked to explore and develop the real-estate segment geared toward recreational living, leisure, and secondary homes for retirement. With its debut project, Anvaya Cove, ALI is confidently poised to conquer the leisure market not just in the Philippines but overseas as well.

Already anticipated as the biggest property venture for the year, the initial P3.2- billion investment by ALI on almost 40 percent of the total project cost is the strongest proof that the venture will truly enjoy the full support and expertise of the country's premier developer. Anvaya Cove is a joint development project with Sudeco, a private real-estate holding firm.

The project site is a strategic 320-hectare prime property in Morong, Bataan - mere minutes out of the landmark business and vacation hub Subic Bay Freeport and in proximity to Clark. The site comprises scenic rolling terrain of mango and narra trees, and a pristine 3.5-kilometer strip of coastline -. a unique proposition of a mountain and sea environment not yet seen in the present market offerings.

ALI is keen on seizing the business opportunities being created by the conducive investment environment of both economic development zones Subic and Clark, and its surrounding communities as well, which have continuously enjoyed rapid growth the past few years. Subic Bay Freeport now boasts of business and leisure establishments, such as Ocean Adventure, El Kabayo, Zoobic Safari, Extreme Adventure, and numerous other tourist accommodations.

Anvaya Cove, most conveniently accessed, by passing through the Subic Bay freeport, will also become even more accessible with the ongoing construction of the Clark-Subic-Tarlac Expressway and the renovation of the North Luzon Expressway.

"The improvements in the North present a future synergy between Subic-Clark and Anvaya Cove, as future residents will not only get to enjoy the leisure amenities of Anvaya, but also gain access to a whole new world of travel, business and leisure offered by the surrounding communities," added Añonuevo.

ALI president Jim Ayala, ALI vice president Marivic Añonuevo, architect Orly Mateo of LVLP, ALI project architecture and planning manager Manny Illana, design consultant Andy Locsin of LVLP, and ALI chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala

Premium leisure lifestyle

Anvaya Cove will be a high-end seaside residential leisure community composed of residential communities and the Beach and Nature Club. A select number of pre-constructed Tropical Asian-inspired villas, a short walking distance to the sea, will also be offered. These villas are designed by renowned local architectural firm L.V. Locsin & Partners. Only shareholders in the Beach and Nature Club may purchase real estate within the development.

The residential experience in Anvaya Cove is envisioned to be a community where building designs are Asian inspired and homes are thoughtfully woven into the landscape. Guidelines will also help preserve the natural lay of the land and ensure the maintenance of wide open spaces.

The Beach and Nature Club will offer various amenities and activities geared toward providing an active and leisure lifestyle for the whole family. Major zones in this hub include the beachside bar and grille for food and entertainment, a water sports pavilion for jet skis, speedboats, rafts and sunset cruises, and a recreational lagoon area inlaid with an expansive lawn. A facility called the Nature Camp will also be developed, which will offer such facilities as ziplines and ropes courses, targeted not only toward families but for corporate team building activities as well.

The Beach and Nature Club will also offer well-appointed overnight accommodation exclusively for members and their guests.

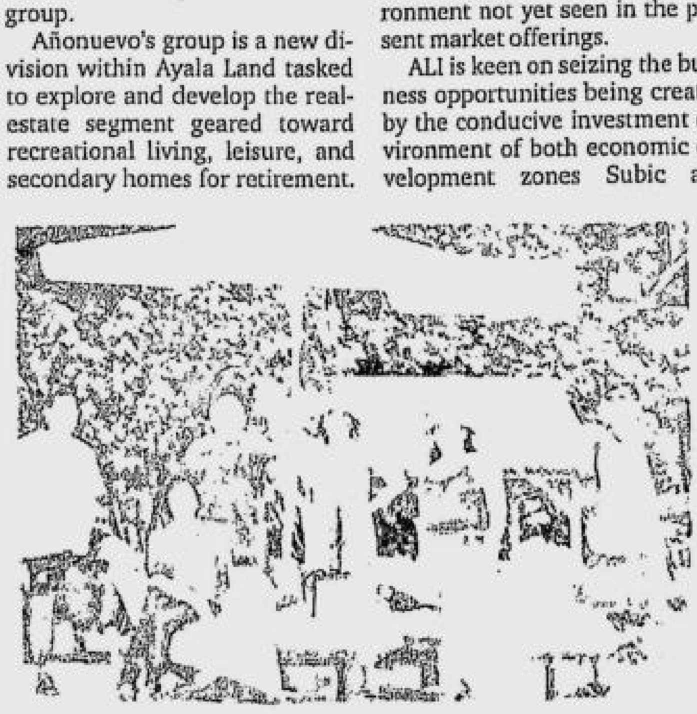
Apart from such commercial amenities, Anvaya Cove's natural environment is seen to forge a more spontaneous interaction and living with nature. Biking, hiking, and nature trails that wind along the natural lay of the land will be developed. Flora and fauna that are found in the area will be well-preserved and taken care of, providing an unparalleled natural living experience.

The concept of Anvaya Cove

Anvaya Cove was formed from the Sanskrit word "Anvaya," which means "family" and which pertains to the natural order of things in the Hindu way of thinking.

"Family is truly the heart and inspiration of Anvaya Cove," according to Jaime Ayala, ALI president and CEO. "We envision it as a place where loved ones can bond closely, sharing unforgettable experiences and forging lifelong memories."

ALI's attention to resort-quality service will be a key hallmark of Anvaya Cove, as an extension of its reputation for property management with its residential and building projects. A new standard for leisure service will be created with the Ayala leisure development, where residents and guests can enjoy the pampering normally experienced only in international resorts. Anvaya Cove will also reflect ALI's signature of delivering masterplanned communities that truly enhance the quality of life of its residents, along with the value of property investment.



Anvaya Cove Project Team members at the brand new Six Senses Resort in Koh Samui : (from left) architect Joel Luna, ALI AVP and head of Technical Planning Group; Marivic Anonuevo (seated), ALI vice president and head of ALI Leisure & Lifestyle Communities Group; Darwin Salipsip, project construction development manager; Marly Laraya, project and business development manager; Beng Abella, senior division manager and head of Project Team; and architect Manny Illana, project architecture and planning manager.

Shaping the Vision that is Anv

From page E1

structures almost disappear into the landscape and feel like they've always been part of the setting. It's not about conquering nature, but living with it."

Locsin elaborated that the architecture and the design adapted a very strong Asian feel which was appropriate to the location. "We wanted the place to feel that it's grown from an Asian root and yet, not completely Pinoy. We were looking for an architecture that is somewhat timeless, and almost very Asian in feeling, but you cannot pin it down to any particular country or culture. There are many elements of certain things that were mixed in. And the hope was we came up with an architecture that was different and unique and self-referential. In other words, you won't see it anywhere else."

"Seamless transitions" will also be achieved between artificial and natural elements. The clubhouse takes utmost advantage of this setting as it will sit at the edge of the enhanced sandy area, seamlessly integrated with the edge of the actual natural beach. The recreated sand area acts as a secondary beach which caters to the preference of urban dwellers, providing several venues for outdoor dining, lounging around, and recreational activities. Similarly, almost as important as the beach itself is the feature of a half-natural, half man-made lagoon which is incorporated in the design of the clubhouse.

To further uphold and concretize the family bonding goal of the project, the architects chose community spaces and other elements to foster activities among members of the family. For the overnight accommodations in the Beach and Nature Club, Locsin emphasized that a lot of provisions were made to accommodate many semi-public places, where rooms are clustered around some centralized places like small balconies or porches so people can gather and sit around.

Natural inspiration

What could be considered as the architectural centerpiece of Anvaya Cove is the Beach and Nature Club, which stretches over 12 hectares and has a constructed floor area of 2,500 sq.m. Its most important architectural feature is the roof shape of the clubhouse and the adjunct facilities.

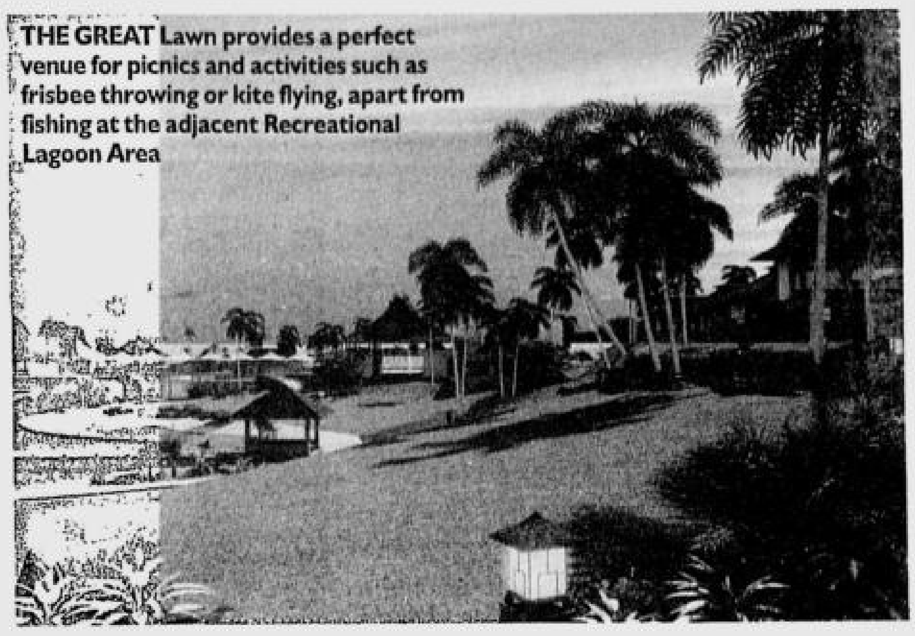
Locsin further described it: "We came up with a peculiar shape that was derived from a particular proportion of a semi-circle which forms the profile of the roof. It is sort of pinged at the top and flares down to a slope. We tried to use that proportion as the basis for the roof shapes of all the important buildings in the site and tied them all together. And that simple geometry gave rise to a bunch of design solutions that were unique, such as floating walls to offset against the roof. These are very simple surfaces, and yet have a very dramatic quality to it."

For materials, the architects used the available local stones, some wood and very lightweight, durable material for the roof. These were also effectively echoed in the recreational facilities such as the boat house, beach bar, spa, wine bar, view pavilions, the chapel and watersports pavilion.

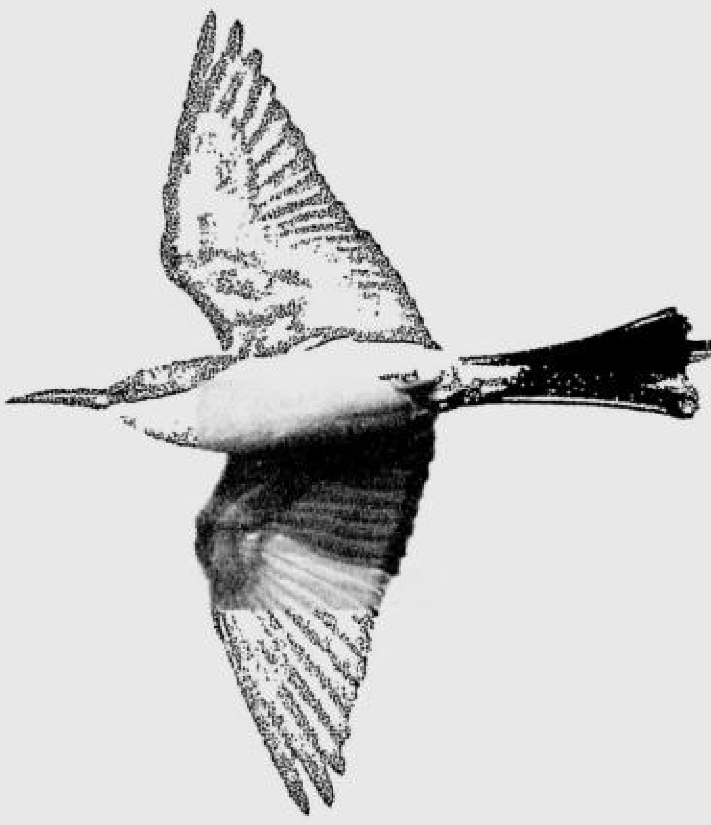
The promise of Anvaya Cove

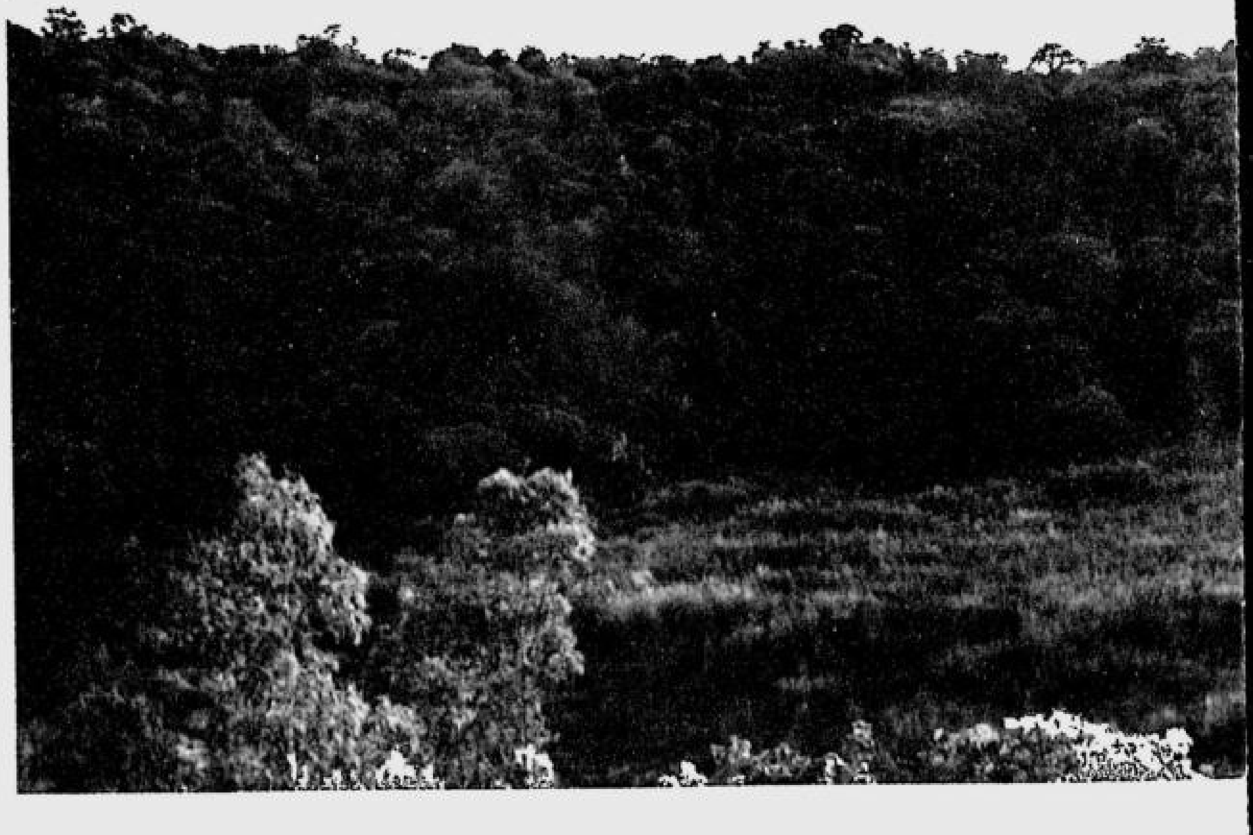
"We found Anvaya Cove to be a very exciting project because we were given creative freedom to interpret what our clients wanted. It was an interactive process all throughout, and it was refreshing to work with Ayala in creating a project that is totally unique and gives due respect to the environment," stated Locsin. "We agreed on a philosophy wherein when you leave this earth, you should leave the smallest possible footprint."

As the structures of Anvaya Cove come into shape, so will the vision of a top leisure destination for Filipino families become a reality not only for its architects, designers, and builders, but most importantly, for the Filipino families themselves. After the long journey Ayala Land has embarked on molding its first leisure development, the outcome is definitely being eagerly anticipated as Anvaya Cove has been unveiled in the local scene. Ayala Land is proud to offer the development which is anticipated to become top-of-mind for Filipino families seeking to buy into the unique leisure experience of a seaside residential community in the Philippines, where the mountains meet the sea.



THE GREAT Lawn provides a perfect venue for picnics and activities such as frisbee throwing or kite flying, apart from fishing at the adjacent Recreational Lagoon Area





Breathtaking, it seems like a dream. There's magic here. Where else would we w

"Anvaya" means family in the ancient, Asian spiritual language of Sanskrit. Indeed, the family is the very heart and inspiration of Anvaya Cove. Can you imagine that special place where the mountains slope gently to meet the sea? Where your family can bond closely, share unforgettable experiences and forge lifelong memories.

In the heart of this enviable, exclusive leisure community is the Anvaya Cove Beach and Nature Club — a members-only gathering place amidst spectacular lagoon landscaping — for wining, dining and unwinding. Where the recreational amenities provide opportunities for bonding and unique experiences that all family members can share.

Own a slice of paradise and dare to live the life you've always wanted. Your exclusive membership in the Beach and Nature Club offers you options to extend this experience. Select a residential lot where you can build your dream vacation home. Or own one of a number of luxurious seaside villas located a short walk away from the main beach.

In your search for the ideal second home, there is absolutely no leisure community in the country that is as warm and inviting for your family as Anvaya Cove.

By Ayala Land, naturally.

It's a family affai

A joint development project of

AYALA LAND, INC.
SUDECO

Call: (632) 728-7000 / E-mail: anvayacove@ayalaland.com.ph / Visit: www.anvayacove.com

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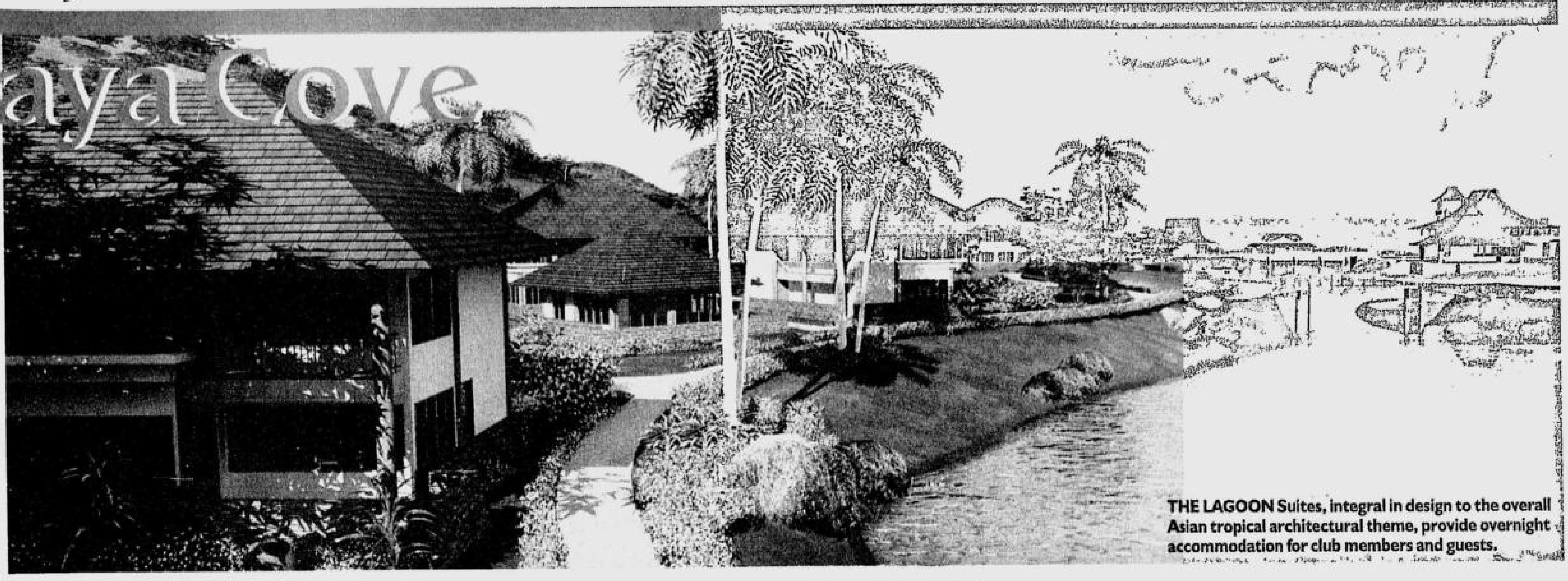
aya Cove



THE LAGOON Suites, integral in design to the overall Asian tropical architectural theme, provide overnight accommodation for club members and guests.

nt to be?

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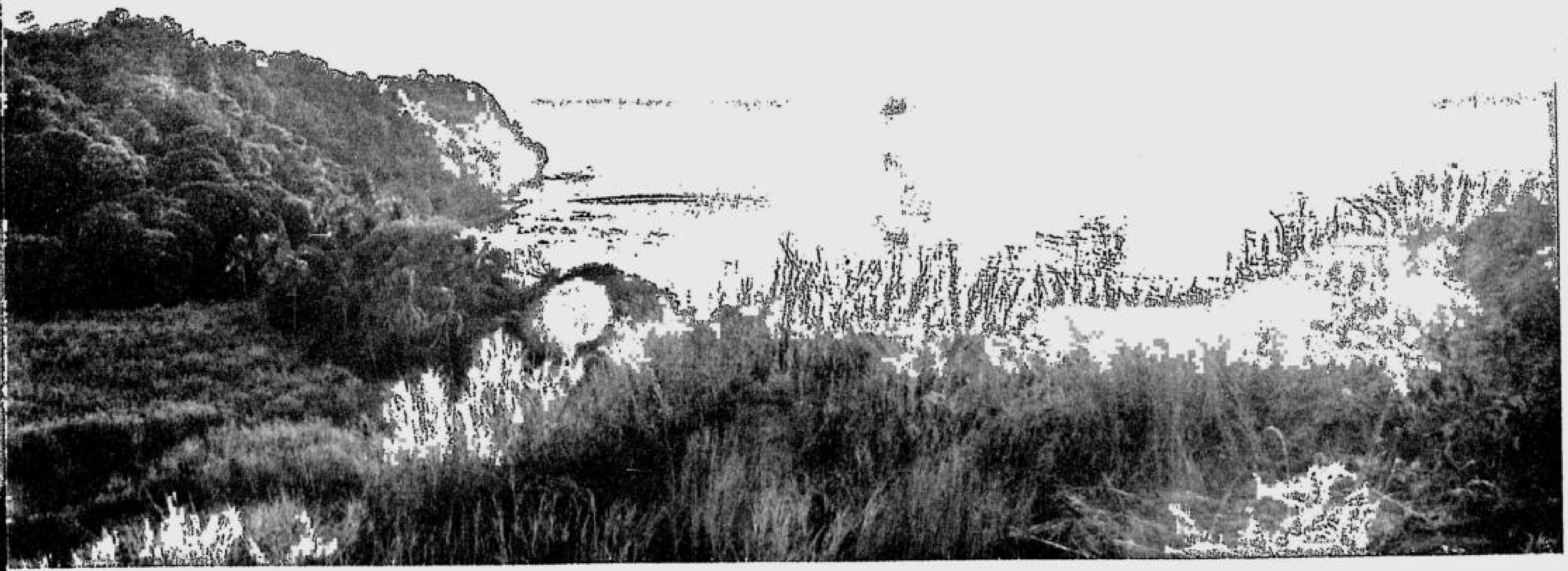

ANVAYA
COVE
An AYALA Leisure Community

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Ayala Land unveils Anvaya Cove

'Our direction was to create experiences that were very interactive with nature,' explained ALI president Jim Ayala.

THE RICH scents and foliage of the forest, together with calming Asian music and soothing nature sounds, were the backdrop of the year's most exciting project launch from Ayala Land for its first-ever leisure community, Anvaya Cove. Held recently at the Harbor Garden Tent of the Westin Philippine Plaza Manila, the venue was transformed into a throbbing tropical haven that gave guests a peek into the world of Anvaya Cove. The event proved to be a pleasant escape from the city's hustle and bustle, and that is exactly what Ayala Land aims to offer on a much grander scale in the beautiful new Anvaya Cove leisure community - a sprawling 320-hectare area in Morong, Bataan, with spectacular views of the Silangin and Bataan mountain ranges, and touched by the cool waters of Subic Bay.

Guests were truly pampered with a feast for the senses, and the experience put everyone's workday fatigue on hold. The evening began with cocktails for the valued guests and clients of Ayala Land, who were asked to celebrate the event by coming in pastel linen tops or chic tropical cocktail dresses. Sitar music wafted in the air as guests discovered Anvaya Cove through colorful photo panels, scale models, and interactive touchscreen programs scattered throughout the venue.

The Asian flavors of the night's entertainment continued with breathtaking celebratory dances, culminating in the unveiling of Anvaya Cove through a special video and MTV presentation preceded by native tambuli calls signaling the program segments. Present during the important event were Ayala Land's top honchos, chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala and president and CEO Jim Ayala. Ayala Corporation president and CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala was also on hand during the momentous occasion.

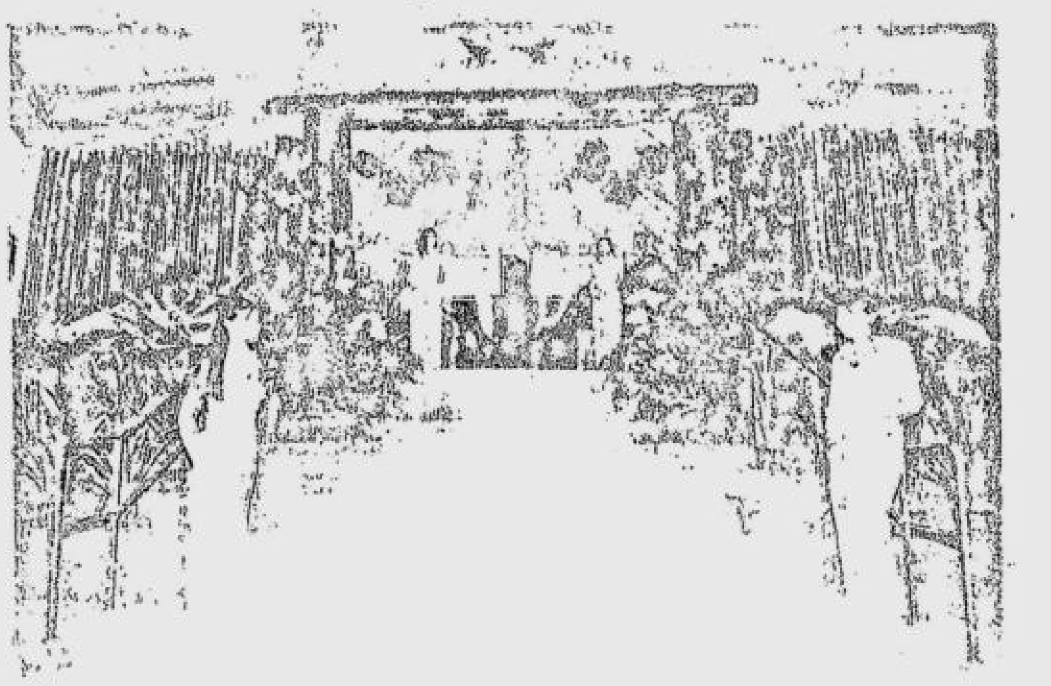
"Our direction was to create experiences that were very interactive with nature," explained ALI president Jim Ayala. "We wanted to do something a little bit like what you see in the national parks in the US. You can go there and do things in a natural setting."

ALI chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala also thanked the company's partners who helped shape the vision of Anvaya Cove as a place where nature will be preserved, with architecture that works with the lay of the land and even enhancing the natural beauty of the site.

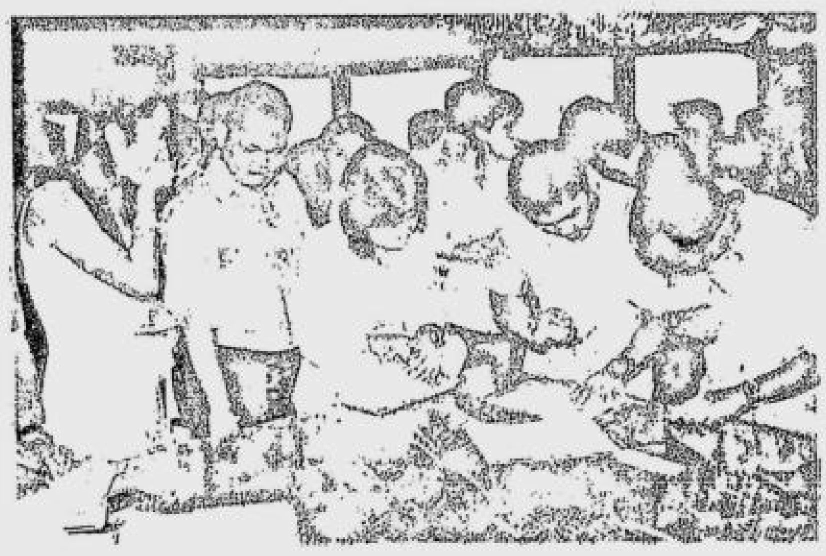
Extraordinary experiences and endless adventures for the entire family in the midst of breathtaking scenery are the promises of Anvaya Cove, with a long list of activities and amenities centered around the Beach and Nature Club. There will also be varied delights at the Water Sports Pavilion, Recreational Beach Area, and Recreational Lagoon Area.

Whether you opt to build your dream house on a residential lot or choose to own one of a select number of luxurious seaside villas, Anvaya Cove is your piece of paradise, made possible only by Ayala Land and its tradition of excellence. Anvaya Cove will also bear the Ayala quality of masterplanning communities and superb property management, together with world-class resort-quality services.

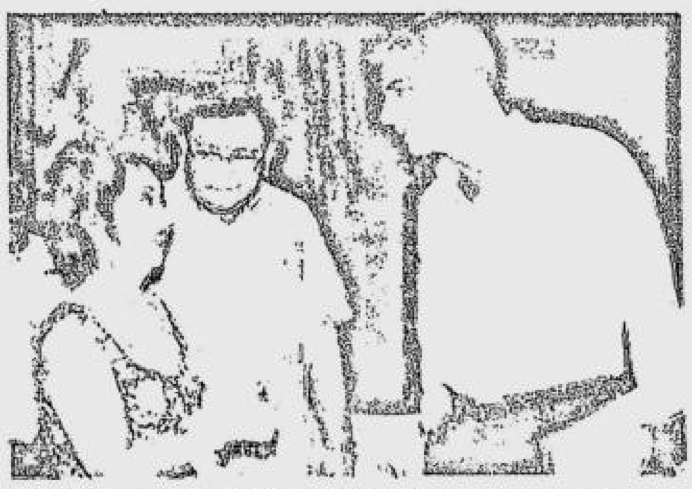
"Discover Anvaya Cove for yourself. Let every visit become a chance for you and your family to create a new story, a new memory, that can be shared and cherished over time," ALI president Jim Ayala imparted at the end of the special video presentation.



AYALA Land president and CEO Jim Ayala

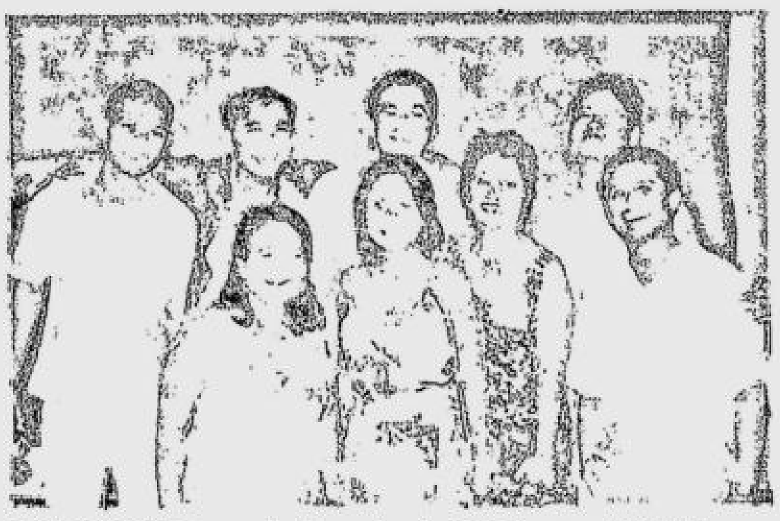


MASTERPLANNING consultant Jacinta McCann, Sudeco board member Greta Go, architect Andy Locsin

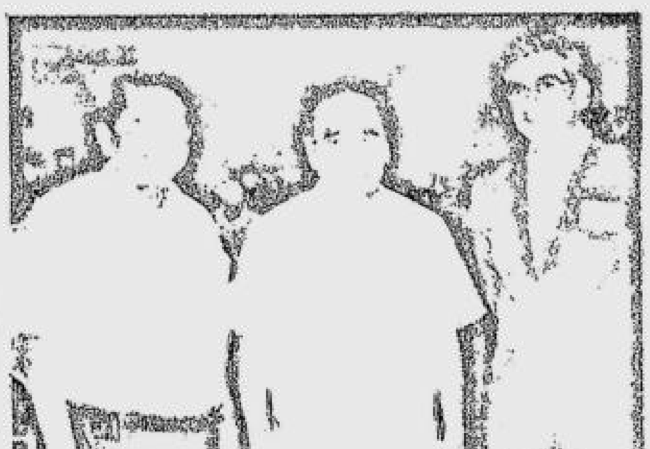


ALI VP Marivic Añonuevo, ALI VP for sales and marketing Rene Almendras, ALI chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala

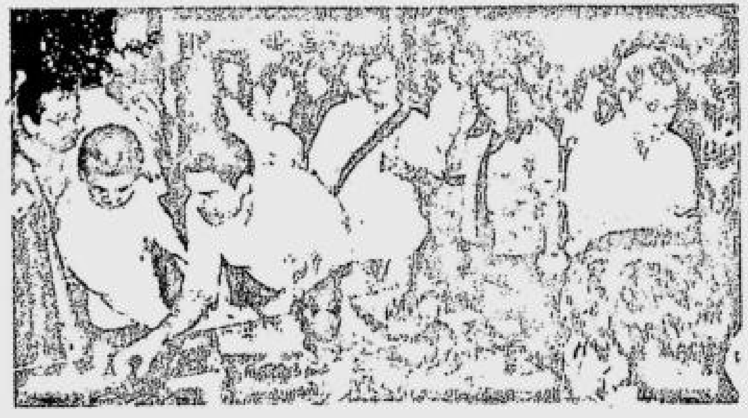
ALI business development manager Amir Precilla (right) and Ayala Land Sales Inc. property specialist Alex Encarnacion (left) with valued clients Glecy Mojares, Tess Briones, and Carrie Bautista

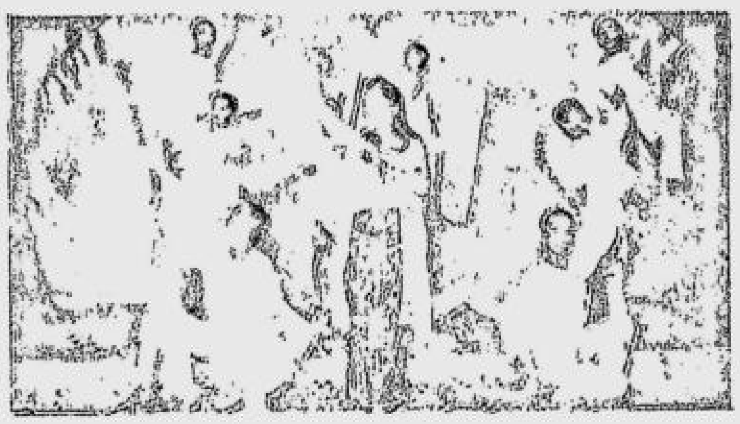


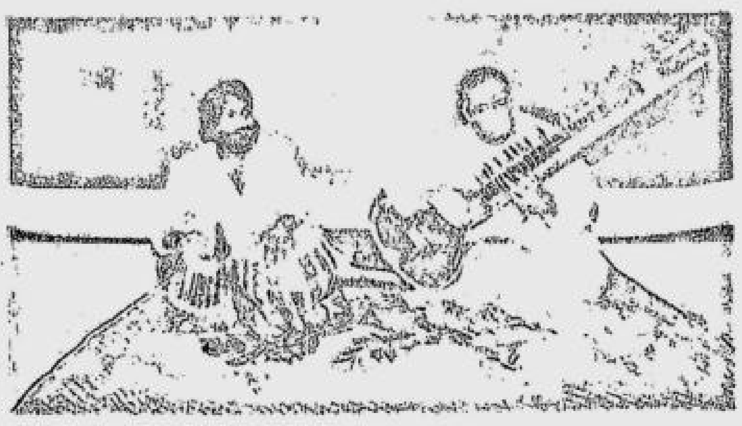
THE ANVAYA Cove project team headed by Leisure and Lifestyle Communities VP Marivic Añnonuevo (second from right)



BATAAN Governor Enrique Garcia, businessman Henry Sy, Ayala Corporation president and CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala







The Anvaya Cove journey begins not far away

A FORETASTE of the exciting Anvaya Cove leisure lifestyle will soon be available for prospective clients and future homeowners at its new marketing showroom right in the heart of the city. The Manila-based sales office is located at Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati, in front of popular food establishments Italianni's restaurant and Segafredo Zanetti coffee bar. The marketing showroom aims to bring the Anvaya Cove experience close to its target markets in the metro, from young couples and families to full [illegible] and their brood of [illegible] as well as [illegible] to enjoy the fruits of their labor and spend more time with their loved ones.

Rising amidst the commercial [illegible] the Greenbelt showroom will feature the unique architectural details of the Asian tropical theme of the actual development in Morong, Bataan, most notably the Locsin-designed quarter arched roof. The two-storey structure will give guests a feel of the warm yet dynamic Anvaya Cove [illegible] rounding. Underlining the development's commitment to and celebration of nature are its unique landscaping details in the mini garden of the showroom. The interior design also typifies the Asian sophistication of Anvaya Cove structures and designs, using material that blends in harmony with the natural surroundings.

Clients will be able to imagine themselves enjoying the amenities of the Anvaya Cove Beach and Nature Club, the central hub of activities in the leisure community. The Beach and Nature Club comprises such Activity zones as the Recreational Beach Area, Water Sports Pavilion for [illegible] water activities, Lagoon Area for fishing with a Great Lawn for outdoor sports and the club's Main Pavilion for wining, dining, and recreation.

Most importantly, future residents can choose the most suitable site for their dream vacation home from among the choicest lots in Anvaya Cove's residential communities. There are also a [illegible] lect number of premium [illegible] constructed seaview villas [illegible] short walk from the main beach [illegible] the tropical Asian architecture of the whole development.

The Manila sales office will complement the onsite marketing showroom set to rise very soon. These hubs will form the complete Anvaya Cove experience, from initial discovery to an actual visit and enjoyment of the site's natural wonders and offerings, such as its 1.5-kilometer beachfront, two coves, rolling hills of centuries-old mango and narra trees, and a myriad of natural flora and fauna.

Anvaya Cove is mere minutes [illegible] the Morong Exit [illegible] the popular vacation hotspot Subic Bay Freeport. Travel [illegible] SBMA is even anticipated to be reduced drastically with the present rehabilitation of the North Luzon Expressway and the construction of the Clark-Subic-Tarlac Expressway. All these will make the trip to Anvaya Cove a truly worthwhile family endeavor.

For more information on Anvaya Cove, call 728-7000 [illegible] e-mail [illegible] anvayacove [illegible] land.com.ph or [illegible] anvayacove.com